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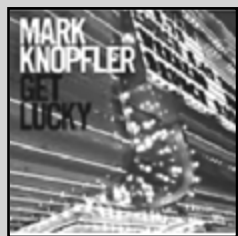
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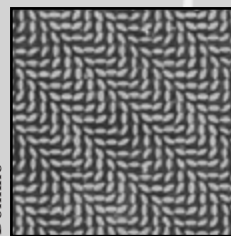
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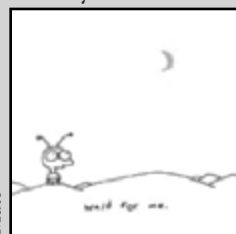
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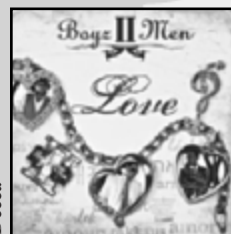
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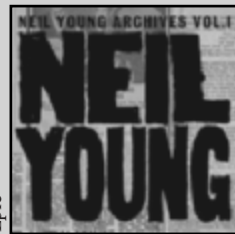
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Tales of the Pioneers

Roller Derby queens and pulp fiction masters

BY LOUIS BLACK

This column probably seems unduly Austin-centric and Austin-partisan to some – which it is without apology. If you belong in the camp that feels that way, however, this issue's cover story may drive you to drink. In talking about the rebirth of women's competitive Roller Derby (which had once flowered but had been moribund for more than three decades), all acknowledge that Austin was a crucial city to the sport's resurgence. Still, it's more than that: The first women's competitive Roller Derby league started here was run by a management team consisting of active Roller Derby participants. When a lot of those involved in the competition objected to this top-down ownership and management, they went off on their own to set up a separate league. In the best Austin tradition, both leagues succeeded, one becoming something of an inspiration and prototype for women's Roller Derby with a flat track while the other did the same for banked tracks.

Essentially, innovation, followed by a labor/management dispute between labor and management, resulted in Austin's pioneering both of the major variants in contemporary women's Roller Derby. Speaking to the best Austin traditions while adding another celebrate-Austin layer, I'll note that this story is brilliantly and contemporaneously told in Bob Ray and Werner Campbell's wonderful documentary *Hell on Wheels*.

□

The Ongoing Personal Story, Continued

Last week's column described how, after becoming interested in comic books, in 1974 I first met Otto O. Binder, a well-known writer of comic books who lived in the town next to where I grew up. Gradually, Otto and I began to spend significant amounts of time together.

When I first met Otto, I'll readily admit I knew nothing more about him than what I had read in *Alter Ego* No. 7, the fanzine that had led me to contact him. In Otto's room, his work area was up front, separated from the rest of the room by bookshelves. As you entered the room, there were also bookshelves on the right filled with comic books, most of them Golden Age, while on the opposite wall were stacks of pulps. All the comics and pulps contained stories by Otto. Over the years, as I visited regularly, I read my way through both comic books and pulps.

In the early 1930s, Otto and his brother Earl began to publish stories in such science-fiction pulp magazines as *Amazing Stories*, *Weird Tales*, *Astounding*, *Wonder Stories* (which later became *Thrilling Wonder Stories*), *Startling Stories*, and *Fantastic Worlds*. Writing together, they used the pen name Eando Binder (EandO). Their brother Jack Binder, who graduated from the Chicago Institute of Art, would become a prolific comic book artist later. Earl dropped out of the team by the mid-Thirties, though Otto would continue to use the pen name of Eando for the rest of his writing career.

Eando Binder had become one of the best-known pulp science-fiction writers by 1939, a stature he maintained until 1942, by which time he was mostly writing comic books. By 1945, Otto had published some 2 million words of SF in pulps. He was so prolific that in some issues of a pulp, he might have a number of stories: One would bear the Binder byline, but there might be another using the house name (the name remained the same regardless of who had written the story), as well as other pseudonyms, such as Gordon A. Giles and John Coleridge.

In the very little critical writing that exists on his SF output, Otto is regarded as a prolific pulpster and given no credit for any literary qualities other than excellent storytelling and innovative ideas. Although I have read most of Otto's pulp fiction, it was while sitting on a bed beneath the shelves of pulps as he typed away nearby; clearly, my opinion on his work lacks any critical perspective. Otto was not only the first writer I knew personally; I also loved his work and devoured everything he had written in comics and pulps.

Despite the lack of critical attention, his influence on other writers in terms of ideas is generally acknowledged, although I don't think he is given anywhere near sufficient credit. Undoubtedly, his best known and most important works were the Adam Link, Robot stories, beginning with "I, Robot," published in *Amazing Stories* in 1939. Along with Lester Del Ray's story "Helen O'Loy," they are generally regarded as being among the first SF stories featuring intelligent, sympathetic robots. They are told in first person by Adam Link; Otto explained that this was the driving idea behind the stories: "Who could tell what happened to a robot better than the robot himself, assuming him to be of near human intelligence? Such a robot, in a sense, is actually a form of life rather than just a mechanical man. He would have his personal opinions, prejudices and outlook."

Otto noted that the Depression was a time of great injustices, leading to much speculation on new social orders. As a pulp writer, he responded in his stories. "Adam Link was my Gulliver," he told me, "the robot an underdog misunderstood and attacked by the system."

Adam Link is the best known and most enduring character Binder created, and there were numerous paperback editions of the stories published over the decades. Otto also had great success adapting the stories for comic books, first for EC's *Weird Science-Fantasy* and later for *Creepy*, from Warren Publishing. The story "I, Robot" was also adapted for an *Outer Limits* episode (though not by Binder) and inspired an episode of *Star Trek*.

Later in 1939, Isaac Asimov also began to publish intelligent-robot stories. These were clearly influenced by Otto's work, as were Asimov's three laws of robotics. All Asimov's robot stories were collected and published in one book by Gnome Press in 1950. Over Asimov's protests and ignoring his proposed title, the published book was with the title *I, Robot*.

page
two

When I knew Otto, we attended a number of comic book conventions and SF events, including the Lunacon, the annual NYC SF community miniconvention. Whenever Asimov was at any event with Otto, he always came over to talk with him. They were good friends who shared a deep nostalgia for the golden age of SF pulps.

Obviously, Binder published far more SF than just the Link stories. Among my favorites were the Anton York, Immortal stories, which were similar to a number of tales of superhuman heroes then appearing in the pulps. The Via series of 10 stories, published in *Thrilling Wonder Stories* under the pseudonym Gordon A. Giles, are about discovering a series of pyramids on the planets in our solar system. While they are not proclaimed a major influence on Arthur C. Clarke's *2001*, there are certain similarities to the narrative structure. Clarke was a devoted fan of science fiction at the time, and it's more than likely he read the stories. At the one Lunacon that Clarke attended, he came over as soon as he saw Otto, very happy to say hi and chat with him. Otto introduced me, but I was not yet a Clarke fan, so I said a brief hello, somewhat rudely leaning past him trying to get a look at Samuel Delany several rows away.

In 1937, Jack Binder had gone to work managing Harry Chesler's shop, which turned out comics published by Chesler as well as complete stories for other publishers' books. Jack Cole, Charles Brio, and Gill Fox were among those who worked under Jack. Jack began urging Otto to write for comic books.

As much as he loved SF, comic books paid. Even as a star writer, Otto at most got a fraction of a cent to two cents a word from the pulps. He was paid \$5 for a relatively easy-to-write comic script by Chesler, and after Jack opened his own shop in 1951, Otto was paid \$2 to \$3 a page. Soon, all of Otto's writing was concentrated on comic books. Working for the shop, Otto wrote for any number of companies, including Street & Smith, New Friday, Timely Publications (later Marvel comics), MLJ (home of Archie and friends), and Quality. While there, he also began to write scripts for Fawcett, the home of Captain Marvel.

Soon, he was working directly for Fawcett, where he would stay for more than a decade. It was easily one of the happiest times of his life, a period he never spoke of with anything less than enthusiastic affection. There he found a welcoming, exciting creative home; it also proved to be one of his most happily productive periods and the source of his greatest fame. Binder's whimsical, comedic vision and happily wacky ideas that still embraced adventure perfectly complemented artist C.C. Beck's already established style for Captain Marvel.

(This piece on Otto Binder is largely autobiographical, based on my memories and supplemented by notes and letters. Still, absolutely crucial to it and to anyone interested in learning about or writing on Binder is Bill Schelly's magnificent biography, *Worlds of Wonder: The Life and Times of Otto Binder*.)

To be continued. ■



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Postmarks

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MOVE AUSTIN BEYOND COAL!

Dear Editor,

Thank you, Nora Ankrum, for comprehensively covering the efforts to move Austin beyond coal ["AE's Coal Conundrum," News, Nov. 20]. Sierra Club and our environmental and bicycling community partners were delighted with the turnout and unity behind the Roll Beyond Coal message at our rally on Oct. 31. Sierra Club is committed to getting Austin off coal as soon as possible. We are working in Austin neighborhoods through weatherization workshops to make Austin homes as energy-efficient as possible. Sierra Club fully supports on-site solar power as soon as possible on rooftops of Austin government buildings, businesses, schools, churches, homes, and parking garages. We believe Austin can do it. Austin can roll beyond coal. We are one of the first cities in the U.S. leading the way to clean power, green jobs, and clean air.

Donna Hoffman

VON TRIER NOT DUTCH BUT DANISH

Dear Editor,

Re: The review of *Antichrist* [Film Listings, Nov. 20]: Though I'm sure you've been made aware of this already by both of the Danish ex-pats that reside in Austin, filmmaker Lars von Trier is *not* Dutch. He is a Dane, born in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Dutch and the Danes don't even speak the same language.

C'mon, Savlov. Try and keep up!

Todd Dwyer

TARGET SHOULD HAVE BEEN SAVLOV, NOT BAUMGARTEN

Dear Editor,

In last week's edition of the *Chronicle*, a letter of mine was published in which I blasted Marjorie Baumgarten's film criticism ["Postmarks," Nov. 20]. But I made a terrible error in attributing to her a review of *The Perfect Storm*. You corrected me and pointed out that it was Marc Savlov, not Marjorie, who wrote the review of that film. My apologies to Ms. Baumgarten for my error. Sure, I consider her reviews to be awful, but she shouldn't be held responsible for a review she didn't pen. So instead, let me say to Mr. Savlov: "WTF, dude?" Typically, I agree with your take on films, and even when I disagree slightly, I still appreciate the verve and passion of your writing. But ... *The Perfect Storm*? Really, Marc? I guess it goes to show that even great minds sometimes don't think alike.

*Thanks,
Andy Buck*

HOW COULD THEY?

Dear Editor,

Re: "Headlines" [News, Nov. 20]: The Trail of Lights is one of the Top 10 best holiday light displays in America posted by *USA Today*. How can the city scale it down when it draws more than 250,000 people each year? Why do city officials have to ruin a tradition like this? Even if the city charges \$2 or \$3, that still comes out to be around half a million dollars. What is the city doing?

Robert Newberry

TIMELESS DOCUMENTS

Dear Editor,

Christian Wagner's suggestion ["Postmarks," Nov. 20] that Ron Paul is a neolithic statesman whose fierce defense of liberty has no place in our current age is a trite straw man. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are timeless documents, and their contained logic is not subject to some arbitrary expiration date. If, as

Thanks for All the Turkey

The Austin Chronicle offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26, through Sunday, Nov. 29, for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will reopen for regular business hours on Monday, Nov. 30. Leave room for pie.

he suggests, age is the bar by which to measure the soundness of our policies, then why have countless numbers of people spanning the political spectrum voiced their opposition to the PATRIOT Act, Military Commissions Act of 2006, and the innumerable other abrogations of our age-old natural rights? Habeas corpus was first affirmed with the Magna Carta of 1215; surely then, in its vapid decrepit age, it should be rightfully abolished. Policies and the ideas they espouse should be debated on their merits, not on some haughty air of ostentatious superiority. It seems from my vantage point that Wagner would like nothing more than to cherry-pick aspects from these documents, ignoring the parts that do not suit his open-armed embrace of an expansive central government. If we each ignore the aspects that don't fit our own myopic world-view, then what is left? The founders foresaw this and provided our nation with a purposefully arduous process (Article Five) to accomplish such aims. These changes were not to be taken lightly nor were they for transient concerns. Therefore, ignoring this ageless document is the pinnacle of hazardous change our founders not only warned against but provided safeguards against. Lest we forget its intended purpose: "In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution." – *Thomas Jefferson, 1798*

Adrian Maceiras

MANAGEMENT, LABOR SHOULD COOPERATE

Dear Editor,

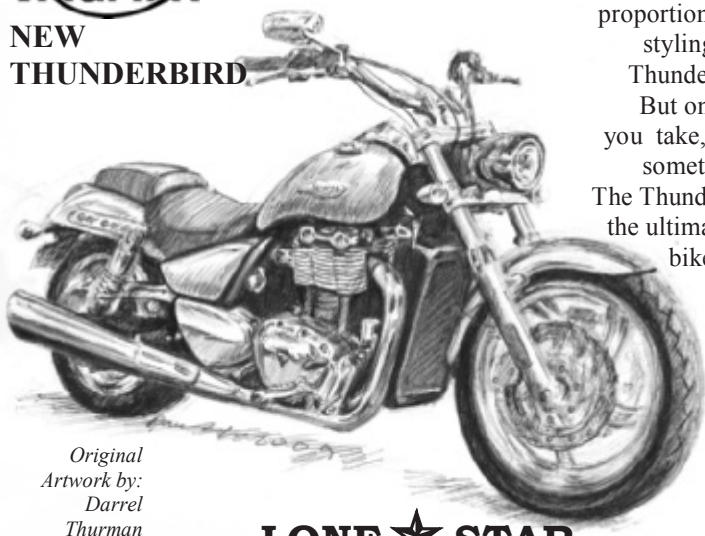
As a member of the American Fire Service and someone who loves the city of Austin, I have kept a close watch from a distance on the department and city, from the hiring of J.J.

Adame through the current situation. I've had the opportunity to speak with several members of the Austin Fire Department from varied ranks and assignments on this and many topics. It's my feeling that Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr walked into a tough situation. Both the chief and Stephen Truesdell are good individuals, each filling their specific roles, but perhaps the city and department might be better served if both management and the union worked together to solve the monumental tasks that lie before them. In some other departments, the method of relationship by objective has proven itself to be a very useful tool in achieving a goal that both management and labor can live with and that best serve the community. A committee is established, chaired, and co-chaired by members of management and from labor. In this way, both parties are stakeholders in the problem and the solution. Neither has the luxury of slinging arrows at the other for their attempt at a solution to the problem. The solution derived jointly is often better than either could achieve separately. True, this method may not be the most expedient way to address an issue, but it does create a solution that both sides can live with. The solution achieved more often than not is the best one possible for the citizens and organization in the long run. This system may be of assistance in deriving solutions for both the budgetary crisis demands of the department and determining how to achieve diversity throughout its ranks as well. I do agree with the city that a department should reflect the diversity of those it serves. How to best achieve the diversity though may be a matter perhaps best determined by the department as a whole. Best of luck.

John Mure

CONTINUED ON P.10

TRIUMPH NEW THUNDERBIRD



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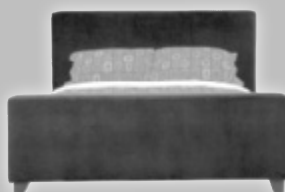
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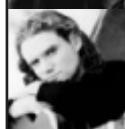
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PAUL NOT A DEFENDER OF LIBERTY

Dear Editor,
 Adrian Maceiras states in his Nov. 19 letter that "policies and the ideas they espouse should be debated on their merits" ["Postmarks" online]. I agree entirely with this statement, which is why I feel that people running to the Constitution or to the private writings of Thomas Jefferson as defense for their political ideas are intellectually dishonest. You cannot claim to judge ideas purely on their merit and then turn around and accuse others of "cherry-picking" when they do the same. Just because Jefferson said or did something does not make it immune to judgment.

However, back to the subject at hand: Ron Paul has stated very clearly that he does not believe that the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights should apply to state governments. (See www.lewrockwell.com/paul/paul120.html for his own statement on the matter.) This is not a "fierce defense of liberty" by any stretch of the imagination. It is a call for localized theocracy. Anyone who lives in Texas and is not a conservative

Southern Baptist should be scared to death of Ron Paul's ideas.

Christian Wagner

'FREEDOM CANDIDATES'

Dear Editor,
 Re: "RonPauloompas Mistaken About Their 'Freedom Candidate'" ["Postmarks," Nov. 6]: It is only in the last 85 years that the incorporation doctrine, with the 14th Amendment as its basis, has been invoked to compel states to abide by the provisions of the Bill of Rights. Ron Paul is a "freedom candidate" in the same sense Thomas Jefferson was a "freedom candidate"; he considers the Bill of Rights to restrict only the powers of the federal government.

Even the 14th Amendment wasn't considered to enforce the Bill of Rights on states until 1925 with *Gitlow v. New York*, which was rendered 57 years after the amendment was ratified.

Jay Howard

CONTINUED ON P.12

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THE ASSOCIATION OF RIGHT-WING BEDWETTERS PRESENTS 5 EXTREMELY COMPELLING REASONS NOT TO HOLD TERROR TRIALS IN NEW YORK CITY

1) SOME LIBERAL JUDGE MIGHT LET THE TERRORISTS OFF ON A TECHNICALITY.
 THE AMERICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM CAN'T BE TRUSTED!
 THE FOUNDING FATHERS SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED A "NO-TRIAL-NECESSARY-IF-YOU-KNOW-THEY'RE-GUILTY" CLAUSE!

2) THE REST OF THE WORLD MIGHT LEARN TOO MUCH ABOUT THE AMERICAN TORTURE PROGRAM.
 ANY MORE ATTENTION TO THAT BUSINESS ABOUT SLICING DETAINEES' GENITALS WITH SCALPELS ISN'T GOING TO WIN US ANY FRIENDS.*
 THE REST OF THE WORLD IS SO JUDGMENTAL!

3) TERRORISTS COULD USE THE TRIAL TO SPREAD THEIR HATEFUL IDEOLOGY.
 AND THEN THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW OUR KIDS WILL ALL BE RUNNING OFF TO JOIN THE JIHAD! IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
 OUR LEGAL SYSTEM IS FOR DEFENDANTS WITH PLEASANT THINGS TO DISCUSS!

4) SINCE THE TRIAL COULD PUT NEW YORK CITY AT RISK, IT SHOULD BE HELD SOMEWHERE ELSE SO OTHER PEOPLE ARE PUT AT RISK INSTEAD.
 THESE TERRORISTS--THEY'RE SUPERVILLAINS! THEY'RE LIKE LEX LUTHOR OR SOMETHING!
 CAN'T WE JUST HOLD A TRIBUNAL--IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE?

5) WE'RE VERY, VERY AFRAID.
 IT HAS BEEN THE DEFINING PRINCIPLE OF OUR LIVES FOR MORE THAN EIGHT YEARS.
 WE'RE DAMN SURE NOT GIVING IT UP NOW.
 OOPS! I THINK I JUST WET MYSELF. WHO CAN BLAME YOU?

*GOOGLE IT.

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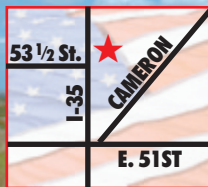
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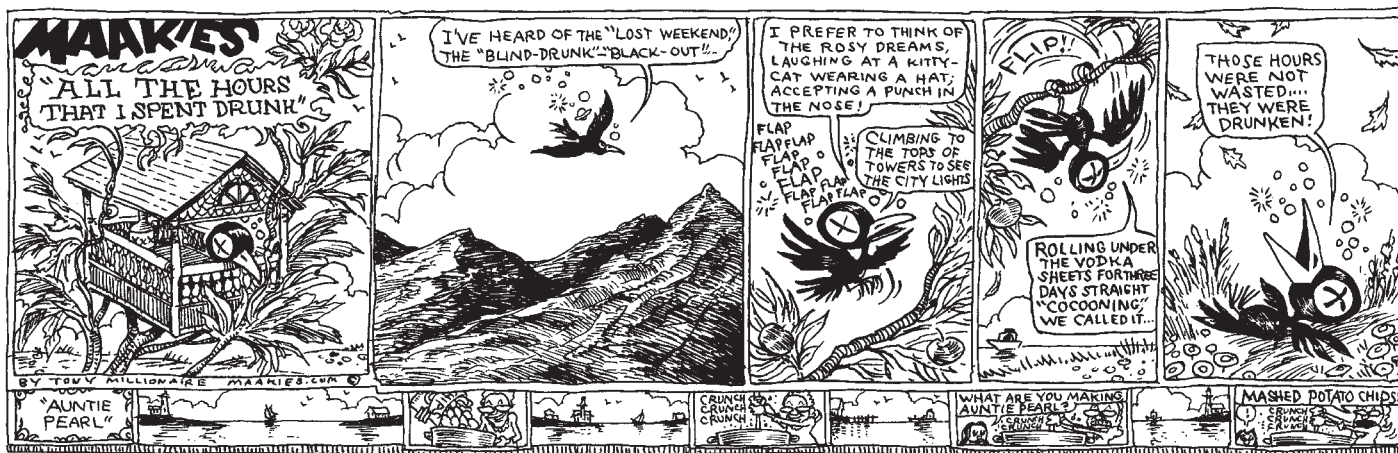


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GENOCIDE IS UGLY

Dear Editor,
 I am glad that Mr. Ventura and the *Chronicle* have brought up the Holocaust, the Congo, and Armenia – too bad you didn't mention all the massacres of the evil Bushes: George W.'s numerous war crimes and murders of hundreds of thousands of innocent people in Iraq, his mass-murderer daddy's slaughter of tens of thousands of liberal activists in Central America during the 1980s, not to mention the War on Drugs debacle! I just wish these two evil killers could somehow be brought to justice by the international criminal court; they are certainly genocidal maniacs. Next as the target of the far right is every single man, woman, and child here in America who is a liberal Christian, or just a liberal person! The Republican Party has been preaching hatred and intolerance for everyone since the 1980 election of its Führer Ronald Reagan, another bloodthirsty mass murderer of liberals around the world. To learn more about the Holocaust and genocide in general, I suggest a visit to the Holocaust Museum in Houston. Or watch the PBS POV documentary *Inheritance* about Helen Hirsch. Ms. Hirsch is also a character portrayed in the movie *Schindler's List*. And watch the movie *Escape From Sobibor* with Alan Arkin, based on the book *Sobibor, The Forgotten Revolt* by Thomas Toivi Blatt. His website is www.sobibor.info. These will help any person to learn about intolerance.

Hank Startrain

SLAUGHTERED INNOCENT ANIMALS

Dear Editor,
 Did the *Chronicle* think that it was serving justice to animals raised for food by covering the story of Sebastien Bonneu, founder of "Animal Farm" [Food, Nov. 20]: Bonneu boasted himself as a man aiming to please his customers, but isn't he, in the end, simply a supplier of hacked-up body parts from slaughtered, innocent animals? How offensive was it to see a picture of Bonneu holding up a helpless rabbit, surveying the "almost perfect" specimen for quality choice cuts. Bonneu's farm is no better than a factory farm. Although Bonneu claimed his "customers know where this meat came from," the *Chronicle* and Bonneu failed to mention the fact that while the animals might be raised in better conditions, the name of the game is still murder.

Timothy J. Verret

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

Dear Editor,
 The state of Texas came into existence with bold assertions about government of a free republic: It derives its authority from the people and exists solely for their benefit, and the fate of the republic is "confidently" left to the decision of a supreme arbiter of the destiny of nations. It is from this supreme arbiter, the creator, that unalienable rights of every person originate, according to the Founding Fathers of the United States of America in their Declaration of Independence from the throne of England.

status, or political or sexual preference. No government or religious body has the authority to dictate anyone's personal understanding of the origin of the universe and of the species on earth or to limit the association with any who share a particular understanding, be it theistic, atheistic, or agnostic.

Furthermore, any person or group is free to hate another person or group, as long as said entity refrains from trespassing on the life, liberty, health, or property of any other. Motivation of crime is totally irrelevant.

Let the light of liberty shine from the hearts of the people of Texas to North America, Central America, South America, Mexico, and to the entire world.

Sincerely,
 Kenney C. Kennedy

QUESTIONS ABOUT APD'S PLANS

Dear Editor,
 After the Austin Police Department's prompting of the city legal department to bring forth ridiculous, counter-to-our-charter claims that council would "overstep the City Manager's authority" by barring officers from being trained to draw blood, one question remains: If, as Assistant Chief David Carter claims, APD is not "currently seeking to train" nor does it "expect to train" officers as phlebotomists, then why did they lobby so hard to prevent passage of the resolution to bar the practice?

Freedom doesn't protect itself, y'all.

Debbie Russell



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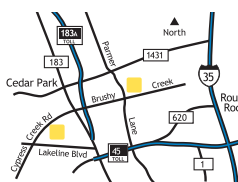
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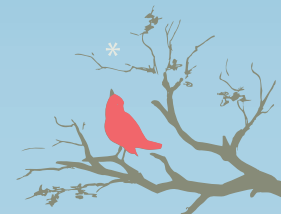


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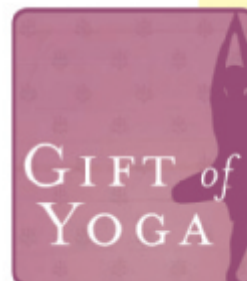


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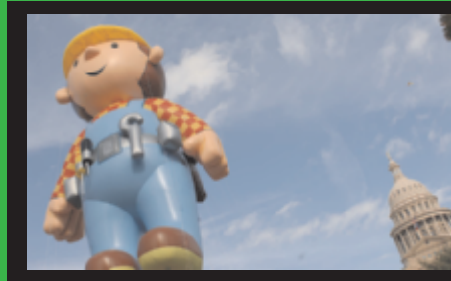
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news

Headlines

- ▶ The **Pecan Street Project** is receiving \$10.4 million in federal stimulus funding for its efforts to build a smart energy grid prototype at the Mueller development. "This effort will build on Austin Energy's existing Smart Grid programs by creating a microgrid that will initially link 1,000 residential smart meters, 75 commercial meters, and plug-in electric vehicle charging sites," a Department of Energy release states.



JANA BIRCHUM

- ▶ Let us give thanks: **Barton Springs Pool** will reopen at 5am Thursday, just in time for your turkey day plunge. Recent heavy rains had flooded the pool, forcing its temporary closure.

- ▶ With the city settling into a **food coma**, local government buildings, including libraries, gardens, and rec centers, are all closed Thursday and Friday, and trash collection slides forward one day.

- ▶ Amid the **water conservation** vacillation that dominated last week's City Council meeting (see "City Hall Hustle," p.20), council approved changes to the Austin Police Department's **Internal Affairs** division in the wake of its mishandling of the investigation into Officer Leonardo Quintana's fatal shooting of Nathaniel Sanders II. The change replaces 10 IA detectives with nine sergeants and one lieutenant.

- ▶ What the rain giveth: The **Austin Water Utility** has lifted Stage 2 watering restrictions, going back to the less stringent Stage 1 rules allowing for two waterings a week (bear in mind that you don't have to water that often). Check www.waterwise.austin.com for your designated days. Also on tap: The **free toilet program** has been suspended until the next budget year – its popularity drained its funding – and the utility has secured \$31.8 million in federal stimulus dollars for green improvements at the **Hornsby Bend** Biosolids Management Plant.



- ▶ Texas is getting a dedicated environmental crimes prosecutor. Travis County Assistant District Attorney **Patty Robertson**, a veteran of the Public Integrity Unit, fills the position paid for by a state grant.

- ▶ Thanks for nothing: Attorney General **Greg Abbott** says retired state employees cannot receive the one-off \$500 check the Legislature approved last session, claiming his hands are tied due to the strict terms lawmakers placed on the payment.

- ▶ The Republican gubernatorial primary season kicked off Nov. 19 as both incumbent Gov. **Rick Perry** and challenger Sen. **Kay Bailey Hutchison** launched their first TV ads. A few days later, Democratic hopeful **Tom Schieffer** withdrew from the race (see "Some Guy Named Schieffer Drops Out of Gov's Race," p.26).



JANA BIRCHUM

Holiday shoppers were treated to handmade wares at affordable prices at the annual Women and Fair Trade craft fair last weekend, sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. At this booth, Lata Karna displays a selection of scarves.

Angels Wanna Wear Our Red Shoes

When elephants fight, the ants should look for allies

BY MICHAEL KING

It's inevitable but still disappointing to see the two major Republican candidates for governor already campaigning for the GOP Award for – as the old "Limbo Rock" song had it – "How Low Can You Go?" Incumbent-for-Life Rick Perry's been volubly courting the Tea Party voters for months, just this side of secession, and is now bragging about a supposed "balanced state budget" – neglecting to mention the federal stimulus funds that made the sleight of finance possible. This week Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison began her TV ads by proclaiming she's staying in Washington to stop "the government takeover of health care" – knowing full well that the only "reform" plan under serious consideration is to hand 30 million more customers over to the insurance companies and pray in return they'll stop raising rates. Hutchison's brave inertia also raises the absurd question of just who she imagines Perry would replace her with should she finally resign – is there a GOP quisling in the wings just begging to go to D.C. to vote for "Obamacare"?

Indeed, Hutchison's spectacularly bad campaign thus far has mostly caused wonder whether KBH

really wants to be governor at all. She's made no secret of her understandable desire to come back home, but it's become a puzzle why she doesn't just buy a plane ticket and be done with it. The on-again, off-again resignation cannot have helped her with the hardest-core Texas Republicans – yet those are the very people that she's been targeting most with her still-sputtering campaign. Going in, it seemed that her best chance would be to appeal to Republican moderates (yes, they do exist) and those swinging independents. Yet she and her consultants apparently believe she can run effectively to the right of Perry – who couldn't muster sufficient magnanimity to commute the death sentence of an inmate even his own Board of Pardons and Paroles thought unworthy of execution. At primary time, real men need body counts.

Considering the tested hard-right tastes of GOP primary voters, Hutchison probably presumes she has no choice – which in the current polarized atmosphere, likely also translates to no chance.

CONTINUED ON P.21

QUOTE of the WEEK



JOHN ANDERSON

"I am urging all of those who are not named Bill White not to run for governor."

– Tom Schieffer, giving a nod to the Houston mayor after announcing his decision to drop out of the gubernatorial race

point
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Naked City

► **FIREFIGHTERS UNION ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT** As adoption of a new union contract nears, **Austin Fire Department** Battalion Chief **Bob Nicks** (r) has been elected president of the **Austin Firefighters Association**. Previous AFA



President Stephen Truesdell did not run for re-election. "We're trying to make the union a lot more inclusive of the membership and let the membership have a lot more power," said Nicks. He added that union issues "will be largely determined by what the membership wants," a process Nicks hopes to facilitate by enabling voting online. Still, Nicks has priorities, namely greater interactivity with the community and a chance to "show our professionalism and relevance to them." He added, "I think you'll see we're not going to be the type of union that is talking about the classic union issues" such as wages and benefits. Operational issues – such as four-person staffing on fire trucks – were most at issue in negotiations over the union's new contract. A union vote is scheduled Dec. 6-10, and, if the contract is approved, Nicks hopes for council approval at the Dec. 17 meeting. "I look at it as a fair deal. It's certainly not a home run, but it's not a crap deal." – Wells Dunbar

► **TEXAS' NEW ECO-COP** Travis County Assistant District Attorney **Patty Robertson** has been appointed **environmental crimes prosecutor**, a new position within the Travis County District Attorney's Office funded by a grant from the **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**. Robertson, who has been working as a white-collar crimes prosecutor for the office, will now have statewide jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute crimes under the Texas Water Code and Health and Safety Code, D.A. Rosemary Lehmborg announced on Nov. 20. "Establishing a full-time presence at the Travis County [D.A.'s Office], solely for the prosecution of environmental crimes, will ensure that criminal offenses against our natural resources will be dealt with swiftly and effectively," said TCEQ Executive Director Mark Vickery in a press release. – Jordan Smith

► **BIKE-FRIENDLY JOBS** If you're looking for an employer supportive of your commitment to bicycling, the League of American Bicyclists (www.bikeleague.org) has a couple of Austin recommendations. In its fall 2009 **Bicycle Friendly Business awards**, the LAB recognized **Bicycle Sport Shop** (natch) and the **city of Austin** among 45 recognized businesses nationwide. Bicycle Sport Shop earned the top "platinum" status, while the city was in the "silver" category. The awards commend businesses that promote cycling in four areas: engineering (bike racks, showers, etc.), education (bike-safety programs, tutorials), encouragement (benefits for bike commuters, loaner bikes), and evaluation (in-house bike coordinators, targeted ridership numbers, and such). – Lee Nichols

► **GIG 'EM, HOOK 'EM, PLANT 'EM** There won't be just school spirit on the line for Thursday's **UT vs. A&M football game**. The Austin and College Station mayors have wagered a bet on the game, putting city pride on the line as well. The loser must provide trees to be planted in the winning city. "This is an easy opportunity for Austin to win some new trees," said Austin Mayor **Lee Leffingwell**. "This will provide a shady spot for Austinites to lie underneath our winning trees and celebrate our 12-0 season." College Station Mayor **Ben White** replied, "I can't tell you how excited I am at the thought of having some of Austin's finest oak trees planted in the heart of Aggieland." The latter mayor's name might sound familiar to Austinites: He's the namesake grandson of the former Austin City Council member whose name now graces Ben White Boulevard. – L.N.

NEWS

WATER ON THE BRAIN

Council wades into the conservation wetlands

BY WELLS DUNBAR

The Hustle's obviously a fan of broad humor – and props don't come any more obvious than the one wheeled into City Council chambers last week.

Austin Water Utility Director **Greg Meszaros**, there to deliver an update on the utility's water conservation programs, brought with him to the podium a symbol of all that's right and wrong with the utility's conservation efforts – a shiny new toilet, comically "concealed" by a light sheet betraying its every shape and form before the big reveal.

The porcelain god was a recurrent theme throughout the day – as was Meszaros at the podium – for in this soggy session, nearly every aspect of city water use was addressed. A code amendment passed promoting the use of rain runoff for **parking-lot landscaping**, thereby cutting dependence on potable water. A \$32 million contract with Missouri-based SAK/Quest Joint Venture to expand **Downtown's main wastewater tunnel** was postponed, in view of a lawsuit from Fairfax Tunnel Partners, which also bid on the project. (The suit was tossed out Monday, but may be refiled.) Even two contracts wrangling the hydra-headed beast called **Water Treatment Plant No. 4** came up for a vote. (Both passed – an engineering oversight measure unanimously, and an actual construction contract 5-2. Previous WTP4 holdouts Chris Riley and Laura Morrison went nay again, while former WTP4 opponent **Bill Spelman**, attempting to "acknowledge the inevitable," voted yes, saying "My job now is to try and bring it in on time and with as low a budget as possible.")

However, the full court flush that day swirled back to toilets, and the question of whether the utility is doing the best possible job in its conservation efforts. Meszaros began the flow with his update on the utility's conservation measures and the aforementioned toilet reveal – on **World Toilet Day**, no less – but it soon became apparent council desired more hard and fast guidelines of effectiveness on conservation measures: "bang for the buck," in Spelmanian parlance. "Toilets have the advantage of being easy to count," he said, while requesting a more holistic picture of the utility's efforts.

The topic turned to the **Water Conservation Task Force's** measures, and Meszaros said he strove to act on them as council direction, "saluting" them. Spelman, laughing, responded, "Much as I love obeisance and saluting, Greg, if you think we were wrong, we need to hear it," whether it be "scaling these things too high, too low, [if] we're asking too

much, too little from you ... I would like to hear about it." (From the line of questioning, however, the danger of the utility doing too much seemed remote at best – a concern shared by speakers such as the Save Our Springs Alliance's **Bill Bunch**, who argued more water could be saved by targeting high-use toilets at bars and restaurants instead of apartments.) Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** further codified Spelman's request as a "direction from council" to Meszaros that "savings in terms of MGD [millions of gallons a day] and the cost associated with the recommendation" be attached to future AWU presentations.

The cascade continued that afternoon with Item 5, which allocated \$3 million in new rebate funds (largely for low-flow toilets) plus \$500,000 to implement future recommendations from the **Citizens Water Conservation Implementation Task Force** and another \$500,000 to beef up conservation outreach efforts by adding three new full-time positions. The rebate program has been so successful that approximately \$2 million in toilet rebates – \$200 a pop, destined for apartment/multifamily installation – are already spoken for, and with other rebate programs and future demand, the money is needed. Council, recognizing the program's popularity but desiring to stretch the dollars and confirm that pesky

MGD, appropriated the \$3 million but held the other \$1 million in abeyance. "I'd like to see an outreach plan before we see those dollars spent on staff or anything else," said **Randi Shade**, who offered the substitute motion. "I want them earmarked, but not spent."

Following some additional discussion, Shade's motion passed. But the feeling on the dais was that lots of work remained to **optimize conservation efforts** – and the city's cash. "Earlier in the day, I was convinced that this was the best use of \$3 million for

water conservation," said Spelman. "After hearing the presentation and the discussion right now, I am no longer nearly as convinced as I was that this is the best use," he said – but citing the program's commitments, voted aye. "I hope, however, we don't have this conversation next year, or in a few months, because if we had an **integrated water management program** ... we would actually know what the least-cost alternative was, we'd know where we're getting the most bang for the buck, and the question I have – what's the best use of \$3 million – wouldn't come up, because we would all know what that is."

Drip, drip, tweet, tweet: www.twitter.com/cityhallhustle



If we had an integrated water management program ... we would actually know what the least-cost alternative was, [and] we'd know where we're getting the most bang for the buck. – Bill Spelman

res publica

FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.74.

Hey, candidates! If you'd like your campaign events listed, send details to calendar@austinchronicle.com.

THURSDAY 26

THUNDERCLOUD TURKEY TROT Join in this annual 5K to benefit **Caritas of Austin**. 9:30am (registration opens 7:30am; Kids' K starts 8:45am). Waterloo Park, 12th & Trinity. \$25 (\$30 timed); \$10 Kids' K). www.thundercloud.com.



FRIDAY 27

PEOPLE UNITED features a discussion with **Karen Burke** and **Eric Ruder**, who went on a humanitarian convoy to Gaza in July, and **Sama'an Ashrawi**, son of a Palestinian refugee. 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.

SATURDAY 28

ANTI-FUR FASHION SHOW Show people how chic you can be without harming animals. 11am. Julian Gold, 1214 W. Sixth. www.actionforanimalsaustin.org.

AUSTIN UNCHAINED DAY Free yourself from the chains and big boxes of the world! Shop locally and spend wisely. www.ibuyaustin.com.

CHUY'S CHILDREN GIVING TO CHILDREN PARADE Don't forget to bring a toy to donate to **Blue Santa**. 11am. Route runs from the Capitol to Cesar Chavez. www.chuysparade.com.

ECOLOGICAL LITERACY DAY Volunteer for habitat restoration work with the **Austin Parks Foundation**, followed by a seminar about local ecology. 9am. Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory, 2210 FM 973 S., 972-1960. www.travisaudubon.org.

SUNDAY 29

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Texas Observer CEO **Carlton Carl** talks about the state of the news business. 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. www.austinnuu.org.

MONDAY 30

LAST DAY: TOILET REBATE If you had a free toilet installed this year through **Austin Water Utility's** program, today's the last day to send in your receipt for the rebate. www.cityofaustin.org/watercon.

TUESDAY 01

WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE 7pm. Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 100 E. 27th, 459-5883. Free. www.thecarecommunities.org.

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT BENEFIT Dinner, drinks, and music from the **Bright Light Social Hour**; proceeds help get books to Texas prisoners. 7pm. Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226. \$10 suggested donation.

WHERE THE WATER MEETS THE SKY SCREENING A Zambian documentary about the plight of young women orphaned by AIDS. 4:45pm. Student Services Building, Glen Maloney Room (SSB G1.310), 471-5765. Free. www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs.

WORLD AIDS DAY CONFERENCE explores issues of public memory, human rights, documentation, and representation. 9am-3pm. Texas Union, Governors' Room (UNB 3.116), 232-4857. Free. www.rapoportcenter.org.

The Line Forms Here

This week, Hutchison's hesitations became the Democrats' window of opportunity, as Tom "Do You Know Me?" Schieffer announced that he's leaving the race expressly to open the door for Houston Mayor Bill White. White, currently in the Dem Senate primary against John Sharp, said he would wait a requisite 10 days to "hear from Texans," but state Sens. Kirk Watson and Eliot Shapleigh are already on the bandwagon, the December *Texas Monthly* features a glowing profile of "The Great White Hope," and the fact is that party insiders have been begging for such a shift for months. (Poor Schieffer's arms simply couldn't take any more twisting.)

So while the Republicans-in-waiting are whining that Hutchison's repeated punting has made impossible their orderly statewide succession, once White makes his announcement, it's likely to be followed by a chorus of Dems lining up for other statewide offices. Shapleigh, having already said he won't run for re-election, had been rumored to be considering the Mansion himself before endorsing White. He'd also make a terrific U.S. senator – but he doesn't have White's deep Houston base nor Sharp's statewide machine and will likely consider something less quixotic. Watson is also in the mix, perhaps for another run at attorney general – not necessarily favored in this still-Republican state, but certainly with a better shot than in 2002.

Nothing Secedes Like Excess

Can any of them actually win? Until Texas Democrats begin registering and voting in their demographic numbers, the odds still favor the Republicans. But Mr. "39%" Perry's primary-pandering to the GlennBeckians will burden him in November, and a good many independents who might otherwise have gone with Hutchison are likely to find the pragmatic, ingratiating White a reasonable alternative. That will in turn help downballot Dems,

who should at least place well enough to make voters (and funders) believe they once again belong to a viable statewide party.

Will that make a sufficient difference in actual government policy? Considering the spectacle of the U.S. House Democrats explicitly undermining women's hard-won abortion rights in order to pass "health care reform" – what do these superstition-bound idiots not understand about gynecology? – the short-term prospects are hardly encouraging. Abetted by a media that now treats 60 Senate votes as some kind of divine right of passage over the health care needs (and even oft-polluted opinions) of a large majority of the population, the Majority Party appears determined to cede veto power over national public policy to the most extreme right elements of the body politic. That would be those same tea-partiers and birthers marching around with "Obamacare = Holocaust" signs and demanding that Perry actually gather 'round the wagons and declare Texas Independence (might be worth it, if only to see what the poor spoiled buggers would do without their grandiose military bases and bottomless defense contracts).

So while I wouldn't mind at all the chance to return to excoriating Texas Democrats for behaving like Republicans, I'm not yet counting my wannabe chickens. This week, *Salon's* Mike Madden, reporting from some place called "Cedar Creek, Texas" – that is, the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort out off Highway 71, site of the GOP governors conference – described the race between the competing futures of the Republicans, concluding, "It could be a bumpy ride for them – but it should be fun to watch for the rest of us."

I suspect Madden wouldn't be nearly as sanguine about the entertainment value of Republican politics if he had to live under that menacing cloud 24/7/365, but he's right at least in suggesting that, like Elvis Costello, when we're tired of being disgusted we can at least try to be amused. ■

The Majority Party appears determined to cede veto power over national public policy to the most extreme right elements of the body politic.

THURSDAY 03

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AS FAITH PRACTICE A talk from **Bee Moorhead**, executive director of Texas Impact. 11:30am. Concordia University, Bldg. A, 11400 Concordia University Dr. Free. www.concordia.edu/speakerseries.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: AISD BUDGET ISSUES A get-together with Superintendent **Meria Carstarphen** to discuss school district dollars. 6pm. Travis High School, 1211 E. Oltorf.

LAINY'S BALLOT BLOWOUT Celebrate **Lainey Melnick's** bid for Congress representing Texas' 21st District. The Asylum Street Spankers perform. 6:30pm. Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 799-0626. \$20 (\$15, advance). www.laineyforcongress.com.

ONGOING

ACCESS GALLERY HOLIDAY SHOW Support VSA arts of Texas and local artists with disabilities when you buy any of the gift-worthy items from more than 20 artists. Through Jan. 9. Access Gallery, 3701 Guadalupe #103, 454-9912. www.vsatx.org.

BROWN SANTA Donate cash, toys, books, and nonperishable food items to benefit Travis County families this holiday season. 247-2682.

PROJECT HELP This AISD initiative matches generous locals with needy families, providing gifts for the holidays. Call 414-3690 to register and receive a family's wish list. Bring wrapped gifts to the *Alternative Learning Center*, portable #451, 901 Neal, by Dec. 8. www.austinisd.org/academics/ss/projecthelp.

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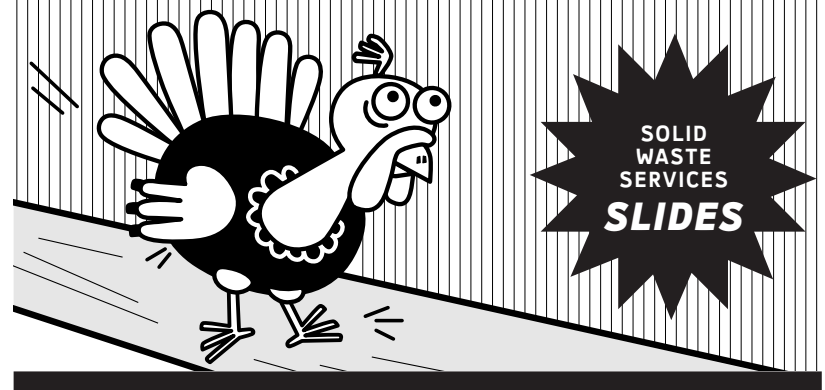
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*The HHW will be closed the week of Thanksgiving.

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CAMPO's trends vs. centers debate is shaping our future

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

Are Central Texans ready to drive less so that we can become a more sustainable region? Well, about half of us are, suggests a recent survey by the **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**. So correspondingly, the **CAMPO Transportation Policy Board** – which decides how federal transportation funds get spread among local road and transit projects – agreed this month to pursue a long-range plan that devotes about half of its future budgets to more “sustainable” projects. (That is, projects that support density over sprawl and that create alternatives to driving – in the interest of air quality, the environment, climate action, and citizens’ pocketbooks.) As logical a policy as cutting the baby in half? Perhaps. But the Nov. 9 board commitment does signal a sea-change shift for Central Texas away from our historical top three transportation priorities: new roads, big roads, and more roads.

The survey is part of People, Planning and Preparing for the Future, CAMPO's inclusive public process for developing a 25-year transportation plan. After gathering public input in the spring, CAMPO put forward three alternate concepts in the survey. It wasn't a statistically valid poll; the self-selecting respondents were reached through stakeholder meetings, the CAMPO website and e-mails, and area organizations and their friends. Critics say some questions were poorly worded, that mathematical modeling assumptions remain old-school, and that the alternative concepts offered weren't differentiated clearly enough. Nonetheless, the more than 4,100 responses gathered are launching a fresh regional mandate. If CAMPO's Transportation Improvement Program budget follows, as promised, that should yield more sustainable development patterns with more transit projects in the mix. At stake: how the region should invest some \$9.5 billion in anticipated (though not guaranteed) public transportation funds over the next 25 years.

CAMPO Chair **Kirk Watson** has led the planning effort to publicly consider three alternatives: **no build** (just fix what we have), **trends** (keep up the sprawl), and **centers** (dense nodes, more transit and bicycle/pedestrian pathways). Survey responses ran about 42% in favor of trends, about 41% for centers, about 7% for no build, and 10% for other. Asked if he was disappointed that the more-sustainable-centers concept roughly tied with business as usual, Watson said no. “We're trying something new, for the first time, so I think it's a very positive first step in an unprecedented process,” he said. “I think it shows the community is, in fact, getting it – that doing the same thing, just building more roads, is not getting the result we want.”

THREE CONCEPTS

“Everybody is excited that they've taken the first step; this is a big deal for this region,” confirmed Glenn Gadbois, a transportation consultant and longtime multimodal advocate.

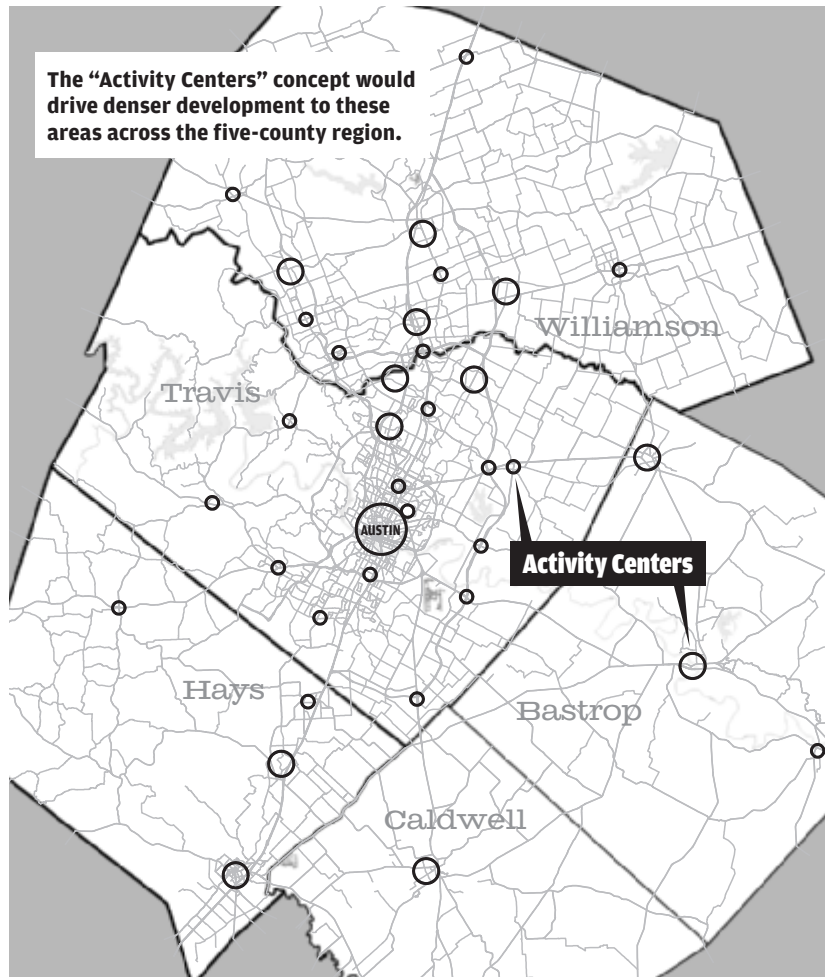
He said a broad range of regional organizations and all of the area's cities and counties are closely watching the CAMPO 2035 plan evolve. “Everyone who has been talking about the way we make transportation decisions in this region is enthusiastically and excitedly looking to CAMPO now,” said Gadbois. But he also said of the board's move toward a hybrid trends-and-centers plan: “This really is baby steps – it's not any landmark, paradigm-shifting change. It is a small step toward something more like the ECT [Envision Central Texas' preferred scenario] vision.”

The first no-build scenario assumes that the area's steady growth continues but no new capacity is added, neither road nor transit. Whatever transportation funds the region gets would go to completing projects already in progress; after that, we simply maintain and operate the system we have. (Without funding from the cash-poor Texas Department of Transportation, which channels the federal funds Watson emphasizes, that may be our only option.) But unsurprisingly, a future in which it's even harder to get around wasn't popular.

The trends concept is basically a recipe for continued sprawl: It leaves regional development patterns up to current policies and market trends. It assumes that all \$2.4 billion worth of projects in the current investment pipeline get built. The remaining \$7.1 billion would go to freeways, more state highways, and arterial roadways. Minimal or no monies would be directed into major new transit.

The recipe for change is the centers concept. It strives to cluster new development in denser live-work-play activity centers in order to reduce vehicle miles traveled – and the attendant pollution, congestion, and emissions. New policies and incentives would drive future growth patterns; to get a road or rail project to serve your new development, you'd need to locate it in a designated center. Funding priorities would shift, so some of the roads now in the pipeline wouldn't get built. The monies would instead be invested in the region's public transit system (including buses and rail), as well as new arterial roads serving the denser mixed-use centers. Watson calls this “a nationally recognized alternative” to “get a better bang for our buck.”

DEVELOPING stories



CASH FOR CENTERS

But, the CAMPO chair warned, “there are issues with all three of these.” Dwindling federal and state dollars just aren't sufficient to keep up trends spending. And, Watson said, “we may not have all the tools we need to carry out a centers approach.” The most obvious missing tool: county land-use authority, a power that area counties and groups like ECT unsuccessfully sought in the last legislative session. On the plus side for centers, the U.S. Department of Transportation is changing its own future funding formulas to favor sustainability.

Now come six months of hard work to translate a new vision into a 2035 plan and a Transportation Improvement Program that's “fiscally constrained” by real budget numbers. The board directed staff to proceed with projects that are already in the current TIP, which runs through 2011. It also endorsed use of the centers locations in a 2007 growth concept map. But the board told staff to come back with ways to dedicate about 50% of metro mobility monies (federal Surface Transportation Program – Metropolitan Mobility funds) to projects in or supportive of centers through the life of the 2035 plan, which will stand for five years. Meanwhile, Gadbois said stakeholders are asking CAMPO to adjust some of its traffic modeling and other assumptions. CAMPO Assistant Director **Maureen McCoy** said staffers are working right now to sort projects by type and funding sources and to develop proposals; they'll report back to the board's technical advisory meeting Dec. 2. The full board meets again in January.

“For the first time, I think we're making enormous progress,” said Watson. “As we get more people engaged, we're growing the public's knowledge base. We're increasing momentum for a discussion about shaping the future instead of letting it shape us.” But he was realistic that the next long-range plan and TIP will reflect evolving priorities: “We're probably all going to vote on something where we have to hold our noses a little bit.” ■

To read the full report, visit www.campotexas.org/2035plan.php and see “Technical Report #8.”



High Praise for Hightower

Jim Hightower – the folksy, Austin-based populist behind nationally syndicated column “The Hightower Report” (which appears every issue in these very pages) – heads for New York next week to accept the **2009 Puffin/Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship**. “I'm totally shocked and amazed,” Hightower told the *Chronicle* last week. Chosen because of his advocacy “for everyday people whose voices are seldom heard in Washington and on Wall Street,” Hightower is following in the footsteps of such luminaries as 2006 winner Amy Goodman (host of *Democracy Now!*) and 2004 winner Barbara Ehrenreich (author of *Nickel and Dimed*). “These are folks I know ... for whom I have terrific respect,” said Hightower. “That pretty much makes it special for me.” Also special is the \$100,000 prize that comes with the honor, which he says he'll “probably fritter away” on continuing his work. Between his column, monthly newsletter, books, weekly radio commentaries, and regular speech engagements, Hightower keeps pretty busy – with the help of longtime partner **Susan DeMarco**, of whom he said, “Half of this [award] at least goes to her.” Hightower will accept the award at a Dec. 7 gala dinner in New York City. Asked if he'll have time to stop by Wall Street while he's in the neighborhood, Hightower said: “I think I'm not entirely welcome there. But I may knock on the door, what the hell, and ask for our money back.”

– Nora Ankrum

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MetroRail As the wheel (slowly) turns



Last week, interim **Capital Metro** CEO **Doug Allen** sat down with reporters for a “media roundtable,” inviting the press to fire away with their questions. The big news to come out of the event: Capital Metro’s CEO held a media roundtable! After years of having little contact with previous CEO **Fred Gilliam** and getting news either through press releases or subordinates, all attending reporters (yours truly included) expressed thanks to Allen for simply conversing with us.

“We thought this format might be a little more interesting than what we’ve done in the past,” said Allen, who took over when Gilliam stepped down Oct. 16. “It was an attempt to be more open, although I think we were being open in the last two months. We wanted to take it to a different level.”

Allen and **Elaine Timbes**, the interim chief operating officer, called the meeting to update the public on the progress of **MetroRail**. They briefed reporters on two major aspects of completing the project: waivers sought from the **Federal Railroad Administration** and outstanding issues to be resolved.

Of 24 waivers sought, five are still pending. Some of those address major concerns such as “temporal separation” (separating freight and passenger operations; Cap Metro wants to use the safest mode –

passenger – for all operations), while others are as trivial as requesting that MetroRail cars not be required to have snowplows (not of much value in Central Texas).

As for issues remaining, Timbes said that of 20 outstanding last month, six have been resolved. Agency engineers are still working out some timing issues on crossing gates, especially at the Crestview Station crossing at North Lamar and Airport; see “MetroRail Watch,” below.

Cap Metro also reported that it got slapped with another FRA violation, but unlike violations received earlier this year, it doesn’t appear this one will delay the project any further. A contractor raised the speed limit on a section of track outside the passenger area from 20 to 35 miles per hour without recalibrating the system that warns of an approaching train. The change was caught and quickly reversed, but the change was not reported to the FRA, which drew the sanction. Timbes said a financial penalty could be assessed but so far has not.

Allen said remaining work is expected to cost \$750,000 to \$1 million, about half of which is already accounted for in the MetroRail project’s \$105 million estimated budget.

– Lee Nichols

Judges Seek Alternatives to Incarceration

At a meeting of the **U.S. Sentencing Commission** last week, Judge **William K. Sessions III** (r) said that federal judges are interested in seeing more alternatives to incarceration included in federal sentencing guidelines. “There is real interest in alternatives,” said Sessions, who chairs the commission, “especially for low-level, nonviolent drug offenders.”



The commission was in Austin Nov. 19-20 for the sixth of seven meetings to hear from stakeholders – prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges – on the relevance of federal sentencing guidelines a quarter-century after they were created and four years after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that they could no longer be taken as mandatory. In 1984, Congress passed the federal **Sentencing Reform Act**, which created the commission and tasked it with writing guidelines on the range of sentencing options available to judges for every type of federal crime. In 2005, the supremes ruled that those guidelines could no longer be considered mandatory – they must be advisory, returning to federal judges the discretion to consider the circumstances of individual defendants when deciding what punishment to mete out.

That ruling has created some difficulty within the system – including a resurgence of disparate sentences, said Chief Judge **Edith Jones** of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. The 5th Circuit, which includes Texas, carries 25% of the entire federal appellate docket, Jones noted, and “therefore we can see the products of the guidelines.” Still, said 5th Circuit Judge **Fortunato Benavides**, the guidelines are working: “I think you get uniformity as an ideal, but there’s got to be room for discretion.”

Nonetheless, the guidelines currently contain few alternatives to incarceration, such as options for home confinement and intermittent confinement; judges “in particular” are saying that those should be expanded, said Sessions. Practitioners within the federal system say treatment programs have been “very successful,” he said, including reducing recidivism. The various available alternatives need “further exploration” before they’re made part of the guidelines – which are written by the commission and then adopted whole unless changed by Congress – but Sessions said that the commission intends to take a “real leadership role in looking at these kinds of programs” and evolving the guidelines as needed. (Sessions said the commission will also soon be tackling questions about the use of mandatory minimums in federal sentencing; a report on the topic is due next October.)

Testimony from the two-day hearing can be found at www.ussc.gov. – Jordan Smith

METRORAIL WATCH HOW LONG WILL WE WAIT FOR THE TRAIN?

There’s both good news to report this week and bad – or perhaps just not great.

As we reported last week, **MetroRail** was supposed to begin testing its evening schedule Nov. 16, but not all of its vehicles were ready for action, so train runs were not on the planned timetable. Three days later, I went out to the **Crestview Station** at North Lamar and Airport – partly because it’s my neighborhood depot, and partly because it’s where **Cap Metro** has had substantial problems getting crossing arms to work properly.

The good news: The train was indeed hitting its schedule. (In fact, one car arrived five minutes early, which caused a problem we’ll detail in a bit.)

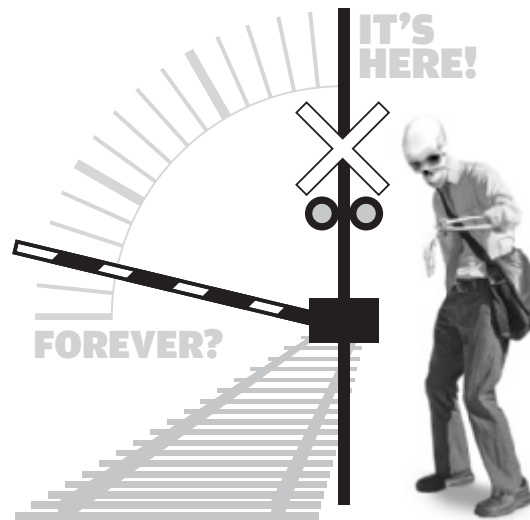
The bad news: Those gates are still really screwy. But, ironically, they’re screwy because they’re working exactly how they’re supposed to.

Problem One: As northbound trains approach the **Highland Mall Station** right before Crestview, their speeds trigger the gates at Crestview – the sensors don’t realize that the train will be stopping at Highland. Thus, five minutes before the scheduled arrival at Crestview, the gates drop for no apparent reason. This is only a minor inconvenience – the gates stay down for about 20 seconds, then raise once it’s

apparent a train isn’t immediately coming. Once the train finally begins its very short trip from Highland to Crestview, the gates work fine. Nonetheless, in a city with Austin’s traffic woes, we hardly need anything stalling cars unnecessarily.

Problem Two: This is the bigger one. As trains are coming southbound into Crestview, their speeds again trigger the gates too soon; similar to the first problem, the sensors don’t realize the train will be slowing down to stop at the next immediate station – this time, Crestview. If you’re sitting at the train platform, the gates drop well before the train even comes into view around a long bend – and they stay down as the train approaches, idles for a couple of minutes to pick up passengers, and then moves through the intersection.

For the first train I watched, the result was a mess. Scheduled to arrive at 4:55pm, it showed up five minutes early – thus blocking the North Lamar crossing for a good seven minutes. You can imagine the result: Cars backed up on Lamar as



far as the eye could see, with a few irate drivers. (One, seeing me taking notes, yelled at me – perhaps thinking I was a Cap Metro employee.)

Later arrivals went more smoothly, with the gates only down for 2½ minutes each time. Engineers on-site worked at tweaking the signal box for a more appropriate time frame.

At least the trains are running on time, so let’s raise the arm one notch. – L.N.

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Carstarphen's Vision No more coattails for AISD



AISD Superintendent Meria Carstarphen tries out a color-by-numbers program.

In her Nov. 17 State of the District Address, Austin Independent School District Superintendent **Meria Carstarphen** laid out her vision for the district: better strategic planning, better community relations, better staff and student retention, and a distribution of resources across the district that is both fair and effective. Warning that reaching minimum standards without breaking the achievement gap isn't enough, she told the audience: "We can't hold on to the coattails. We have to be the top hat."

Four days later at **Sanchez Elementary**, she got to show off, if not a top hat, a particularly bright and colorful beanie. IBM had donated 50 Young Explorer learning centers to the district as part of its KidSmart Early Learning Program, all going to the eight elementary schools that feed into **Eastside Memorial High**. The child-friendly computer units, complete with preloaded educational software and double benches so that kids can share access, proved to be so much fun that Carstarphen warned the IBM reps that "if you

send one to my office, I will play with it all the time," and spent five minutes after the press conference on a color-by-numbers program. In fact, the event summed up her agenda: accessible technology, provided by a community partner, making learning fun for children.

The next step for the district is to define and formalize a four-year strategic plan. The board will hold meetings throughout December, followed by public consultations, with drafting planned for early spring. This process will feed directly into the budget discussions, which Carstarphen hopes to start in February. According to AISD board of trustees President **Mark Williams**, "Once we have the plan, we get into the budget, and we can hope to align the budget priorities with the strategy." At both her address and the presentation, Carstarphen repeated her planning mantra: Nothing is off the table until she gets the guidance on what exactly it is that the community wants her to do. With the toolbox open, Williams added, the board's role "will be supporting her, because she will come under fire because not everyone's going to agree on what to do and what the priorities are."

Drew Scheberle, senior vice president for education and workforce development with the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, believes Carstarphen faces a district with different challenges than those her predecessor, **Pat Forgione**, inherited when he began his tenure. "When he arrived," Scheberle said, "everything was on fire, and the district was wholly dysfunctional." While Forgione dealt with the most egregious and criminal problems, he added, "We still have a long way to go, and I think Pat would say the same thing." Scheberle's takeaway from the State of the District Address was that Carstarphen is serious about dealing with major structural issues, "and that's why the board hired her. Those changes will cause some dislocation, but they're important if we're going to make the kind of outsize gains that we need."

While the district has previously worked with outside agencies and groups, a cornerstone of Carstarphen's presentation was what she called "RFHs – requests for help." Starting with a major push on bilingual education, she plans to increase the number of working relationships with businesses, universities, and local communities, potentially establishing new formal liaison posts. The chamber is committed to sink roughly half a million dollars a year into Partners in Education for the next four years, plus there are hundreds of volunteers from the business community. Scheberle said: "This isn't planting trees or pizza parties. This is key interventions by members of the business community at key moments." It's not completely altruistic: As IBM manager **Sandy Dochen** said at the learning center launch, there is a shortage of engineers, especially Hispanics and bilingual speakers, which can only be solved by early and proactive intervention.

Education Austin President **Louis Malfaro** has been a longtime critic of the district's unwillingness to tackle exactly that kind of major structural issue. Carstarphen, he said, is "more willing to be critical than district leaders have been in the past about historical legacies." But while he praised her commitment to teacher quality and her aggressive stance on bilingual education, he said there was "some discomfort on our behalf because of the short-term fiscal picture." With falling property-tax rolls, the district is predicting a tough budget even before Carstarphen starts restructuring programs and reallocating resources, while still maintaining a \$100 million reserve. Malfaro argued that the district can't use that as an excuse to pummel teachers, and what he's hearing from Carstarphen doesn't allay his concerns: "She continues to say, on one hand, 'We really need to do more about our teachers and our quality,' and the next sentence is, 'and I'm going to whack them 50 bucks a month for their insurance and increase their class sizes.'" — Richard Whittaker

Some Guy Named Schieffer Drops Out of Guv's Race

This week's big state House news was supposed to be the unveiling of the new Capitol ornament for the holidays. However, former Ambassador **Tom Schieffer** overshadowed that event and threw the 2010 elections into an uproar Monday by announcing he was ending his bid to be Democratic nominee for governor and asking Houston mayor and U.S. Senate hopeful **Bill White** to run instead. White's answer? Check back after Thanksgiving.

In the Speaker's Committee Room, Schieffer told the press he had met with White the day before to discuss his withdrawal. Admitting that his own campaign was stalling for lack of funds, he praised the Houston mayor as the best possible candidate. However, White is currently running for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Sen. **Kay Bailey Hutchison's** Senate seat, against former State Comptroller **John Sharp**. Schieffer said, "I told [White] that I thought our state was facing a crisis of leadership and if we did not have a new governor, Texas could wind up being a Third World state."

The Republican Senate hunt was thrown into confusion after Hutchison's recent announcement that, while she is continuing her challenge to Gov. **Rick Perry**, she will not resign

her federal seat until after the March governor's primary. But Democratic activists are quietly enthusiastic about Schieffer's announcement, which could avoid an expensive campaign bloodbath between Sharp and White. While Schieffer said he had not talked with Sharp, he praised him, saying if White does switch races: "We have a good Democrat in the Senate race and we get a good Democrat in the governor's race. It will have worked out fine."

White quickly issued a statement. "I agree to consider running for governor, and shall make a decision by Friday, December 4th." By afternoon's end, he had picked up two important endorsements: Sen. **Eliot Shapleigh**, D-El Paso, rumored to be considering his own statewide run, and Sen. **Kirk Watson**, D-Austin, who briefly flirted with a run for the mansion this summer.

The response to Schieffer's call to rival Democratic gubernatorial hopefuls to withdraw and let White run unopposed



Tom Schieffer announced Monday his decision to end his Democratic bid for governor.

was met with a muted response. Rancher **Hank Gilbert's** campaign issued a statement that "a call to leave the Governor's race and endorse another unannounced candidate fails to resonate with Hank." He vowed see the race through "to an honorable conclusion." — R.W.

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POLITICS GIFT GUIDE

Giving and goading this holiday season

Happy Hottie Days

Hot! Hot! Hot! Fire specialist Lisa Millman (aka Miss August) is just one of the Austin Fire Department's many fine women in uniform featured in this attractive page-turner – the **Austin Firefighters 2010 women's calendar**. And why stop with just one calendar when you can take care of your whole shopping list with both the women's and men's calendars, each at a cool \$15? Proceeds benefit the nonprofit **Austin Firefighters Outreach Fund**, which provides financial assistance to firefighters and their families adversely impacted by the unexpected. www.austinfirefighterscalendar.com.

gift
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2009



Fire Specialist Lisa Millman

JANA BIRCHUM

APD's Candid Camera

You know that **pesky little red light** that shines when you turn on a camera? Apparently it's the reason we don't have video evidence from the night Austin Police Officer Leonardo Quintana shot and killed Nathaniel Sanders II. Quintana says he was loath to activate his dashboard cam lest the red light alert ne'er-do-wells to his intentions. Luckily, this holiday season, we have a simple solution to this problem: **duct tape**. It's thrifty, blocks light, and gives the gift of **no more excuses** – a particularly handy stocking stuffer for your favorite copper who'd like to keep his job. And if he's thrifty – one roll judiciously shared can provide for the entire APD fleet!



ChristMass Transit

With **Capital Metro** fares set to leap by as much as 75% next year, there's no time like the present to give your favorite bus rider a ticket to ride. We recommend **seven- or 31-day passes** for bus regulars (\$7 and \$18, respectively, vs. \$8 and \$28 beginning Jan. 18) – the clock begins ticking with the first ride. More sporadic riders will appreciate the flexible **Stored Value Card** (\$12 for a \$15 value), which will allow them to buy single rides or multiride passes without worrying about an expiration date. (Note: If you're buying online, Cap Metro will send passes only to the billing address; also, expect a \$2 transaction fee.)

Sustainable Stocking Stuffers

The city of Austin distributes a wide range of enviro gizmos for **free**, as seen at the recent Green City Festival. Collect them all in a stocking to delight a green friend or inspire a not-so-green one. For dog owners, the Watershed Protection department has a bone-shaped **dog-poop bag holder** that attaches to a leash. Solid Waste Services distributes reusable **cloth shopping bags**. The Austin Water Utility gives out **rain gauges** that indicate whether you really need to water the lawn. (To call any city department, dial 311.) Or consider signing up a loved one for a **low-flow toilet** rebate (\$60) or **rain barrel** rebate (\$30), then helping them get the new stuff bought and installed; see www.cityofaustin.org/watercon. Over at Austin Energy, a free **Power Partner thermostat** would make a thoughtful gift for elderly relations or new homeowners watching their pennies. Help them sign up at www.austinenergy.com.

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COURTESY OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN

Buying Local Choose allied indie businesses

It's not the mall.

South First Street is the newest IBIZ shopping district organized by the **Austin Independent Business Alliance**. As the holiday season kicks into gear, the South First area – like the five other IBIZ Districts in older neighborhoods around town – offers a concentrated stretch of eclectic retail outlets for an anti-mall experience: End of an Ear, Redline Hookah, Teddies for Bettys, Resistencia Bookstore, Secret Oktober, and Sugar Mama's Bakeshop, to name just a few. In all, AIBA lists at least 80 locally owned businesses in an eight-block stretch between Barton Springs Road and Oltorf.

Such "local character" establishments are the ones AIBA hopes you'll patronize on Saturday, Nov. 28. For Austin Unchained Day, AIBA asks everyone to shop exclusively at locally owned, not chain, businesses. Founded in Austin, the Unchained event is now held in 40 cities around the country,

according to AIBA staff. Council Member **Sheryl Cole** supported it with a Nov. 19 proclamation; Council Member **Laura Morrison** is issuing a Dec. 10 proclamation, "'Tis the Season to Buy Local."

Since 2002, AIBA has cited its economic impact study findings that purchasing from independent businesses keeps three times as many dollars in the local economy compared to money spent at chain stores. The alliance's "unchained" message: If everyone in Austin broke free of chain stores and shopped only at local businesses on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the local economy would enjoy a positive \$14 million economic impact. (That figure has not been updated to reflect the current economy.)

AIBA recently merged with **Choose Austin First**, another local-business organization. AIBA already had a membership of more than 300 locally owned businesses, while Choose Austin First had about 66, of which



**BREAK THE CHAIN HABIT.
SHOP LOCALLY OWNED.**

48 were new to AIBA. Both groups formed in 2002, but ideological and membership-rule differences had kept the groups separate. However, the purpose of an independent-business association is strength in numbers; AIBA says competitors with national-

platform marketing budgets make a unified voice necessary to compete. "By combining our efforts, we have an even stronger voice representing locally owned businesses," said Gregg Burger of **Precision Camera**, who was board president of Choose Austin First. The merged group will use AIBA standards for membership: Businesses must be at least 51% locally owned, not part of a franchise, and not publicly traded.

The South First Street IBIZ shopping district will host one of its monthly "First Saturday" events Dec. 5, from noon to 8pm, featuring sidewalk sales and specials. Information on all six districts is at www.ibuyaustin.com, along with a directory of AIBA member businesses and restaurants, searchable by service and type. AIBA will hold a community happy hour Wednesday, Dec. 2, 5:30-7:30pm, at Spider House Patio Bar & Cafe, 2908 Fruth.

– Katherine Gregor

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

IDEAS FOR BANKING REFORM

If either party in Washington were to get serious about reining in Wall Street greed-heads, here are two good ideas for achieving that.

The first comes from Bernie Sanders, the socialist senator from Vermont who, ironically, has introduced a bill that is the essence of classic capitalism. His bill's title pretty well sums up its content: the Too Big to Fail, Too Big to Exist Act.

If a financial institution gets so big that its collapse would threaten to bring down the entire banking system or wreck our economy, Sanders' proposal would require the Treasury secretary to break it up – if you're too big to fail, you're too big. Period. Rather than guarantee a taxpayer bailout for such behemoths, Sanders would cut them into smaller pieces and decentralize their parts to eliminate their threat and increase financial competition. Good for you, Bernie!

Now to England, where bank regulators don't seem afraid to, you know, regulate. Hector Sants, head of Britain's Financial Services Authority, has gone to the core of the banking industry's problem by addressing the culture of executive greed and the lack of ethical accountability. Rather than hiring executives whose primary motivation is to produce huge rewards for themselves, applicants for senior banking jobs are being evaluated for their ability to "set a strong ethical framework" and to foster a marketplace culture that is sensitive to the proper treatment of customers and the larger public.

Already, notes the regulator, the push for a broader sense of responsibility than bankers' own self-interest has caused a number of applicants to withdraw. Excellent. Good for you, Hector!

Hey, Washington – if you really want a financial system that serves the common good rather than uncommon greed, grab these two ideas and go with them.

A MONOPOLY ON VOTING

When you cast a vote, should it be counted just as you cast it? "Well, of course," you shout! After all, voting is sacrosanct. Why wouldn't every single one of our votes count just as each voter intended?

They should. But during the past decade, state and local election authorities have ever so quietly allowed a little intrusion to come between the casting and the counting of our votes. The intrusion is called "privatization."

Balloting, which has historically and properly been a purely public function in our country, now relies largely on electronic machines that are made and controlled by a handful of corporations. There have been beaucoup problems with those corporate machines. They're easily hacked, they break down on election day, they divert votes from one candidate to another, they drop votes, they mysteriously add votes – and they're expensive.

But the greatest problem is with the privatization concept itself. Voting is not a commodity or industry; it's a democratic right. To allow private interests to control the balloting mechanism (and refuse to reveal the software code for tallying ballots) is a sacrilege that destroys public trust in electoral integrity. Yet, this privatization is about to be made geometrically worse by monopolization. The largest purveyor of voting machines, ES&S, is in the process of acquiring the second largest, Premier Election Systems, now owned by the notorious Diebold Inc. This sale would give ES&S monopoly control of the voting systems in the vast majority of our cities and states.

Antitrust officials must stop this monopolization of America's most basic democratic process. More fundamentally, though, we must restore full public ownership and management of our voting systems. For more information, see www.fairvote.org.

Jim Hightower was recently awarded the 2009 Puffin/Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship. See "High Praise for Hightower," p.22, for more.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – visit www.jimhightower.com. You can hear his radio commentaries on KOOP Radio, 91.7FM, weekdays at 10:58am and 12:58pm.



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Unstable Element

Are Austin's water fluoridation policies dangerous? It depends who you ask.

BY WELLS DUNBAR

The reduced form of the highly reactive chemical element fluorine – better known as fluoride – is commonly added to municipal tap water, in order to strengthen our teeth. When we eat sugars and refined carbs, bacteria lurking in our mouths use them to form acids. Eventually the acids can grow strong enough to eat through tooth enamel in a process known as demineralization, which eventually creates cavities. Fluoride promotes remineralization – while that can't plug cavities, it can stop or slow their growth, help build a new coat of enamel, and kill the acid-creating bacteria. That's the theory behind Austin's use of fluoride since the Seventies, re-endorsed this month by an official city report as providing “a public benefit.” The federal Centers for Disease Control has recognized water fluoridation as one of “Ten Great Public Health Achievements” of the 20th century, along with other noble causes like vaccinations, infectious disease control, and recognizing the dangers of tobacco.

Or so they'd have you believe.

Think of fluoride opposition, and your mind tumbles into a rabbit hole of Cold War, Red-baiting hysteria with reactionary conservative groups chiming in; for instance, the John Birch Society, which explicitly described fluoridation as part of a nefarious Communist plot or form of mass indoctrination – a paranoia famously aped in Stanley Kubrick's 1964 black comedy *Dr. Strangelove*, as General Jack D. Ripper launched a nuclear assault on Russia, supposed seat of the fluoride threat:

“Do you realize that in addition to fluoridating water, why, there are studies underway to fluoridate salt, flour, fruit juices, soup, sugar, milk – ice cream. Ice cream, mandrake, children's ice cream. ... How does that coincide with your post-war Commie conspiracy, huh? It's incredibly obvious, isn't it? A foreign substance is introduced into our precious bodily fluids without the knowledge of the individual. Certainly without any choice. That's the way your hardcore Commie works.”

Sterling Hayden as Ripper was spectacularly ludicrous, and *Strangelove* may have marked a cultural tipping point from conservative orthodoxy to liberal disdain for anti-scientific Red Scares. Yet nearly half a century later, fluoride's effect on the essence of our natural bodily fluids is once again under debate, and not as a part of Red Scare hysteria or a socialist plot. Locally, much like Coca-Cola working the night shift on an unsuspecting molar, a steady drip of citizen pressure has eroded the city's resistance to the discussion.

And the question is raised anew: Does water fluoridation pose a threat to public health?

Discovering Deception

Citizen communications, the public forum held at high noon during each City Council meeting, allows (every week until recent rule changes) speakers to sign up and address the council for three minutes on any topic of their choice. It's a popular occasion for impassioned, if sometimes factually challenged, speakers to flog their miscellaneous hobbyhorses. Rae Nadler-Olenick, a slight, soft-spoken retired Austinite, at first glance fit the shaky cit-com profile, especially once you learned her favorite topic. But she kept coming back, often with her husband, Walter, or similarly like-minded speakers and a battery of scientific opinions to try and drive home her argument to council: Austin's water fluoridation policies – not to mention most of America's – are *bad* for our health.

We talked in a quiet corner of City Hall a few minutes after her latest cit-com appearance – a charming, well-researched speech that held up “Austin's own folk icon” John Henry Faulk as wary of fluoridation. “A few years ago,” she says, “my husband was diagnosed with osteopenia,” a bone-thinning condition that's often a precursor to osteoporosis. “Now when I heard this, my first reaction was just amazement, because as far as I knew, osteoporosis – bone thinning – had always been described as a disease of middle-aged women. It's not a man's disease at all, and here he was with it.”

“A foreign substance is introduced into our precious bodily fluids without the knowledge of the individual. Certainly without any choice. That's the way your hardcore Commie works.”

– General Jack D. Ripper, *Dr. Strangelove*

The Olenicks chalked it up to increasing age until a couple of years later when they were hanging out with friends, and it turned out two other men they knew were taking Fosamax, the same drug her husband, Walter, had been prescribed for his condition. “That grabbed my attention. That looked like a cluster to me. I was alarmed,” Nadler-Olenick says, shocked to learn that “two other people in the same group, all outdoor-type guys in good health,” faced similar ailments.

“What else could they have in common?” she asks. One shared trait was that, like Walter, they all work in construction – and drink lots of liquids. “I know my husband has always got a bottle of, usually, juice in his case; he's constantly hydrating, because he works outdoors,

doing carpentry. And these other men have similar profiles, they're outdoorsmen.”

“I don't remember exactly what pushed me on to look at fluoride,” she continues. “We live in such a polluted environment anyway, and it's hard to single one thing out. But I started hearing a little bit here, a little bit there, and then this book, *The Fluoride Deception*, came to my attention. I read it, and it was like a veil falling away.”

The Fluoride Deception, written by Christopher Bryson and published in 2004, is the Rosetta stone of modern fluoride resistance. Essentially, Bryson argues that fluoride, produced first in large quantities as an industrial

waste byproduct of smelting and then as part of the Manhattan Project's uranium enrichment efforts, was made in such volumes, and at such considerable health risks, that the best course of action for the implicated business and governmental elites was to dispose of the stuff by adding it to drinking water, thereby inoculating themselves from lawsuits by whitewashing it as a teeth-strengthening agent with the help of a concerted push from industry, government, and the nascent public relations field.

Reduced so infinitesimally, it sounds unbelievable, deserving a spot on some nervous bookshelf between a copy of *Behold a Pale Horse* and the collected works of Alex Jones – yet another vociferous fluoridation opponent. But in light of the 20th century history of

physician-prescribed cigarettes, lobotomies, asbestos, shock treatment, lead paint, Thalidomide, Vioxx, Fen-phen, and BPAs, does it really sound that far-fetched?

Signs of the Stain

“I'm likely going up against everybody else, because in organized dentistry this is a panacea,” says fluoride-free local dentist Griffin Cole. “It's seen as a cure-all, and I don't see it that way.” Cole, who's been practicing for almost 18 years, is a dentist with a “biocompatible focus,” not just eschewing fluoride but using advanced filtering for mercury removal and performing “oxygen-ozone therapy” in his procedures. “I would say that topically, if you put fluoride on the tooth, you are going to get somewhat of an anticariogenic effect, an anti-cavity effect,” he says. “But that's not the issue. It's putting it in the water and drinking it systemically which does nothing for your teeth. That's the huge argument.”

Indeed, it's relatively settled on both sides of the argument that fluoride's beneficial effects are topical, and swallowing fluoridated water has no direct strengthening effect on teeth. The concept behind mass fluoridation is that drinking optimally fluoridated water raises the persistent level of fluoride in saliva and plaque fluid and thereby has a cumulative effect that remineralizes enamel and kills decay-causing bacteria. In Western Europe, where fluoridation is much less common than in the U.S., similar effects are achieved with topical fluoride gels (or toothpaste) – and public dental care is also more universal.

But if a little fluoride may be good for you, too much can definitely be bad. Fluoride overdoses do occur, although not necessarily associated with municipal fluoridation – it's



Parts Per Million Pick a number

Fluoride is an optional additive, so there's no minimum level that must be met, but there's an array of maximum suggested levels, and guidelines for effective dosage vary tremendously. Here are some benchmark fluoridation levels, in parts per million:

4.0	Maximum level allowed by the EPA, to prevent serious health effects such as skeletal fluorosis
2.0	Secondary guideline standard, above which dental fluorosis and mottling may occur
1.0	World Health Organization recommended level
0.7-1.2	"Optimal fluoride levels," according to the Centers for Disease Control (adjusted for climate)
0.75	Average fluoride level in Austin water

more often a consequence of industrial production or else a rural anomaly. The iconic fluoride image is teeth bearing a distinctive, dappled brown stain, a sign of those exposed to high levels in childhood. Known as the "Colorado Brown Stain" (for the place it was first documented) or "Texas Teeth" (due to the state's pockets of dense, naturally occurring fluoride), the scientific nomenclature is dental fluorosis, which can register as barely visible white streaks, brown stains, or, in severe cases, a "pitting," or cracking, of the teeth. Higher levels of fluoride poisoning can lead to skeletal fluorosis, a crippling, weakening bone disease.

Fluorosis is one of several worries in the anti-fluoride movement. The Fluoride Action Network (www.fluoridealert.org), perhaps the largest online opposition clearinghouse, stokes worries about an increased risk of bone cancer, kidney malfunction, impacted thyroid gland and pineal gland function, brain damage, lowered IQ, and more. You can spend hours scouring the FAN website, each of its health claims seemingly supported with scientific findings – just as you can spend days combing through the statements from the CDC, the Texas Department of State Health Services, the American Medical Association, and the American Dental Association, to cite a few, endorsing water fluoridation and saying such afflictions can't be caused by the current amounts in our drinking water. In the debate over water fluoridation, each side claims science as an ally, and each yields no quarter.

But some science does evolve. In a burst of ammunition for fluoridation opponents,

CONTINUED ON P.32



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in 2006 the ADA revised its position on fluoride for infants and young children, citing concerns over dental fluorosis. Its "Interim Guidance on Reconstituted Infant Formula," while endorsing breast-feeding, says that if preparing a dry-mix formula, "parents and caregivers should consider using water that has no or low levels of fluoride."

Consider the Smorgasbord

It's a clear, bracing day at the Ullrich Water Treatment Plant in West Austin, which, perched on a grassy hillside, provides a broad, rolling view of the city. Overlooking one of the huge open-air water tanks at Ullrich, Jane Burazer, assistant director of treatment at Austin Water Utility, describes the five-step process in the tanks: disinfection, in which chemicals including chlorine are added to kill pathogens; coagulation, which readies undesirable particles to combine; flocculation, which stirs the waters so they do combine; sedimentation, when the particles finally settle out; and filtration, a "final polishing step" that gets the stuff that didn't settle.

The water then leaves the tank through underground tubes, where fluoride in the form of hydrofluorosilicic acid is added. Whenever the plant receives a shipment, trucks pull up to a special feed station and start funneling the stuff – through high-density plastic tubes because hydrofluorosilicic acid will eat through metal – into two 6,800-gallon polyethylene storage tanks which stand in a separate, open-air building. Looking



Neil Carman

"What [the city's] getting is a toxic industrial waste byproduct that comes from the wet scrubbers of phosphate fertilizer plants."

– Neil Carman, Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club

at the imposing pair, they seem ripped from a set design for *The Toxic Avenger*. And after everything I've heard about hydrofluorosilicic acid, I'm slightly paranoid.

"You can tell that there's something in the air, I feel," I say. "Or am I overreacting?"

"I think you're overreacting," says Burazer.

"You really don't smell the chemical aroma?" I say. Maybe it's just endemic to the plant, period, because when we walked in, it smelled like a chlorinated swimming pool.

"I really don't. I'm not just saying that."

Much of my hydrofluorosilicic acid knowledge comes from Neil Carman, clean air program director of the local Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and a fluoride opponent. Most hydrofluorosilicic acid, he says, is created as a byproduct of phosphate fertilizer production. "They're mining this in Florida, because it's an old sea bed down there. There's a lot of phosphorous there. The problem is they've got some contaminants or impurities they don't want" – one being fluorine, which, Carman says, fertilizer manufacturers remove because it kills plants. "This is a very toxic substance."

So at the end of the fertilizer refinement process, the leftover fluorine is collected in the form of hydrofluorosilicic acid. "What [the city's] getting is a toxic industrial waste byproduct that comes from the wet scrubbers of phosphate fertilizer plants," Carman says. Moreover, other undesirable ele-



Rae Nadler-Olenick and Walter Olenick

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

"I started hearing a little bit here, a little bit there, and then this book, *The Fluoride Deception*, came to my attention. I read it, and it was like a veil falling away."

– Rae Nadler-Olenick

ments are refined from the phosphorous ore, he adds. "There's heavy metals, there's lead, cadmium. It's a smorgasbord of a toxic soup that's in this stuff that they're buying."

Carman draws a distinction between the hydrofluorosilicic acid – the most popular form of water fluoridation – and naturally occurring sources of fluoridation. "You don't have hydrofluorosilicic acid [in nature]," he says. "You have things like calcium fluoride, magnesium fluoride, potassium fluoride. ... But they're not adding those naturally occurring mineral fluorides. What they're adding is industrial toxic waste." Other steps in the refinement process, including air pollution, water pollution, the strip-mining of the phosphate ore, and phosphogypsum – leftovers

from refinement containing radioactive elements like uranium – all worry Carman. "People don't know this at all." (There's also the cost: Fluoride costs have risen each year since 2006, and the utility estimates it will spend about \$310,000 over the next year and \$1,500 each at the two plants on upkeep.)

The Water Utility has a purchasing contract with Florida-based Lucier Chemical Industries for its acid needs, but Lucier is just the vendor; the actual manufacturer is the Mosaic Company, the self-described "world's leading producer and marketer of concentrated phosphate." AWU notes that for every million gallons of water treated, it adds 2.7 gallons of hydrofluorosilicic acid. By the utility's own

CONTINUED ON P.34

Fun With Fluoride A timeline

1874: By the mid-19th century, experiments have established that fluoride occurs naturally in varying concentrations in teeth, bone, and drinking water. In 1874, Alvaro Francisco Carlos Reynoso of France files a U.S. patent for an "elixir" containing fluoride of potassium, sodium, or ammonium, as "invigorating, nutritious, and complementary to food ... for infants at the period when the bones and teeth are in process of formation." In the same year, Carl Erhardt of Emmendingen, Germany, recommends "potassium fluoride for the preservation of the teeth" via pastilles, especially "for children during dentition and for women during pregnancy when the teeth so frequently suffer."

1892: In his "Address on tooth culture," the English physician Sir James Crichton-Browne declares, "Analysis has proved that the enamel of the teeth contains more fluorine, in the form of fluoride of calcium, than any other part of the body"; he recommends "a supply of fluorine, while the development of the teeth is proceeding, is essential to the proper formation of the enamel ... to fortify the teeth of the next generation."

1928: After 25 years of research, Frederick S. McKay of Colorado Springs, Colo., concludes that teeth marked by "Colorado Brown Stain" or similar mottling (e.g., "Texas Teeth") show "a singular absence of decay" and that both the staining

and the decay resistance are caused by something in the local drinking water. In 1931, the substance is confirmed as fluoride; excessive levels in some regional water sources produce the staining known as "fluorosis."

1936: U.S. Public Health Service Officer Trendley Dean concludes that fluoride concentrations of about one part per million prevent tooth decay while not discoloring teeth.

1945: Grand Rapids, Mich., becomes the first city to fluoridate its water.

1951: Water fluoridation becomes an official policy of the U.S. Public Health Service.

1958: The John Birch Society was founded by Robert Welch Jr. in Indianapolis to combat alleged "international Communist conspiracy" secretly governing both the U.S. and the USSR; it opposes water fluoridation as a Communist plot.

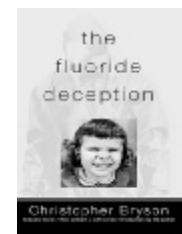
1960: Water fluoridation becomes widely used in the U.S., reaching about 50 million people.

1964: *Dr. Strangelove* released – Stanley Kubrick's satirical film in which General Jack D. Ripper initiates a U.S. nuclear attack on the Soviet Union to stop Communist conspiracy of water fluoridation.

1972: Austin public referendum approves fluoridation of water supply (57% to 43%).

1999: Centers for Disease Control cites water fluoridation to prevent tooth decay as one of the 10 Greatest Public Health Achievements of the 20th Century.

2000: Presidential candidate Ralph Nader opposes fluoridation; Fluoride Action Network formed to oppose fluoridation.



2004: Publication of *The Fluoride Deception* by Christopher Bryson.

2006: 69% of the U.S. population on public water systems are receiving fluoridated water (61.5% of the total U.S. population); 3% of the population on public water systems are receiving naturally occurring fluoride.

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The Austin Water Utility's Jane Burazer, at Ullrich Water Treatment Plant

estimate, since it started fluoridating in 1973 through July 2009, it's added 25,150 tons.

Heavy metals such as lead are indeed present in hydrofluorosilicic acid, along with another corrosive acid, hydrofluoric acid; both are present in very small amounts, less than 0.02% and 1% respectively, according to a Lucier product data sheet. Burazer says that the fluoride, as well as all other chemicals the Water Utility uses, meets National Sanitation Foundation Standard 60 certification requirements, a universally recognized standard which controls for purity and the presence of contaminants like lead, arsenic, radionuclides, and all other manner of things you wouldn't want to drink. (The NSF is a nonprofit, nongovernmental agency with no regulatory authority, but it does certify products as being safe at the maximum dose, and pure to an acceptable level.) "We get the information from NSF," Burazer says. "They're not going to certify a company that doesn't meet their regulations and rules." The utility also performs its own water purity tests.

Burazer doesn't take a stand on fluoridation one way or another. It's not her job; the utility is simply "feeding it because of the will of the people." But she recognizes fluoride is fundamentally different from all the other chemicals used in the treatment process. "Most of our treatment is designed around disease prevention," so "fluoride is an unusual thing. You're not feeding it for a water quality issue. It's a health issue, and we're not health experts, so we don't take a position on it. ... The issues are still out there, and we're not in a position to say this is the absolute correct thing; we're doing it because of the referendum."

Health and Environment

Austin has been fluoridating the water supply since 1973. A nonbinding fluoridation election was put to Austin voters in 1971 – it passed overwhelmingly (73%); put to a binding referendum vote the following year, it passed again, albeit by a smaller margin (57%). But as that election was initiated by

council action and not citizen petition, it would require a simple majority vote by a subsequent council – just four members – to change or end the city's fluoridation policies.

That's among the findings in a recent Water Fluoridation Report prepared by the city and issued to council Nov. 13, and it's pretty much the only good news fluoridation opponents will find there. The report, assembled by Assistant City Manager Rudy Garza, called upon several city departments to address fluoridation procedures, health effects, environmental impacts, and legal issues. Garza's summary states, "The report findings show that the present level of fluoride in Austin's drinking water has no harmful impact to human health or adverse effect on aquatic life and provides a public benefit in preventing dental decay."

Philip Huang, medical director for the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Resources Department, says, "The weight of the peer-reviewed scientific evidence does not support" claims of "any adverse health effect or systemic disorder, including an increased risk for cancer, Down syndrome, heart disease, osteoporosis and bone fracture, immune disorders, low intelligence, renal disorders, Alzheimer's disease, or allergic reactions." The Watershed Protection Department delivers a less ringing endorsement of fluoride's environmental effects. "At the present levels of fluoride addition, there does not appear to be a strong potential for adverse aquatic life impacts," the department finds, later noting, "from a purely environmental protection standpoint, there is no reason to fluoridate drinking water. The decision

to fluoridate drinking water should be based on the comparison of human health benefits from reduced dental cavities versus any potential human health risks."

Garza says the report was put together at the behest of City Manager Marc Ott, partially in response to "concerns raised by some citizens consistently for the past year. The manager ... directed us to form this multidisciplinary team to look at all the aspects of this and submit a final report." Separating fluoride worries into "two big issues: impact to health and impact to the environment," Garza says the report "finds no concern" for either. As for the effects fluoridation opponents warn of, Garza says, "I feel pretty confident that the medical director and our environmental folks both agree that it could become problematic," if fluoride was ingested in higher levels. "But again, it's such a small amount."

"It was a rubber stamp, basically," responds Nadler-Olenick. A post on her Fluoride Folies blog says, "The assistant city manager's disingenuous report" is a "feel-good opus rubber-stamping the status quo [and] smacks of bad faith. It settles nothing." She asks what happened to a motion from the city's Environmental Board, issued this summer, which called for City Council to appoint an "independent task force/committee" to study fluoridation, including, but not limited to, the groups that participated in the city manager's study. "It is not the panel that the Environmental Board had in mind, I'm sure of that.

JOHN ANDERSON

The Long Fight

America's demagogic id, always bubbling along beneath the glossy pop-cultural surface, has been newly unbridled in recent months, running across the country in the form of birthers, deathers, tea partiers, and other assorted members of the right-wing's cult of professional victimhood. As historian and *Nixonland* author Rick Perlstein noted in a column for *The Washington Post*, "the crazy tree blooms in every moment of liberal ascendancy," and the hysteria surrounding health care reform appears closely akin to the John Birch Society's fluoride frenzy in the midst of JFK's Camelot and LBJ's Great Society. In that respect, fears of fluoridation – an omnipresent, inescapable component of daily city life – seem tailor-made for our latest age of anxiety.

Nadler-Olenick acknowledges the strange history of fluoridation and anti-fluoridation and the awkward position in which it places her and other local fluoride opponents – that due to the crackpot theories espoused by the Birchers and persistent in their political descendants, science-based opposition to mass fluoridation may be similarly consigned to the loony bin of history. "The science has moved on," she says, echoing a line from Neil Carman. "My way of saying it would be, evidence of harm is accumulating. ... It really doesn't matter what the John Birch Society was doing back then."

In Texas, fluoride opponents have achieved some limited victories. A fluoridation battle has raged in the San Antonio suburb of Alamo Heights, where the City Council, after authorizing fluoridation in 2004 but never actually implementing it, voted to repeal authorization last year, with cost cited as an issue. The Elgin City Council voted to end fluoridation in 2007, seemingly more out of health concerns. But with a new, bullish report from city staff, it doesn't seem like reconsidering fluoridation is high on the Austin council agenda. (See box above.)

Nadler-Olenick says she'll keep her website and blog (www.fluoridefreeaustin.com) going and continue speaking to council. She also hopes to spread the message on public access TV and build inroads with Austin's minority communities to keep spreading her message. "This could be a very long battle; I hope not, but it could be. This didn't happen overnight, and it won't be undone overnight. A lot of people will fight a while, and then they'll get tired, because it's so exhausting. I'm not planning to get tired – no matter what – but it could be a real long fight." ■

Change on Tap? Council on Fluoride.

The City Council only needs a simple majority vote of four to alter or abolish the water fluoridation policies. But with three of the council members the *Chronicle* spoke with opposed to a change in fluoridation policy, the chances of a revision seem slim.

Mayor Lee Leffingwell: "Right now, the science we're looking at says fluoridation of drinking water is a benefit. ... And it doesn't cost very much money – 50 cents per person, per year. If somebody else has better science, science that's documented, certainly, we can take a look at that, but right now, the science side is in favor of fluoridation. [Austin's fluoridation] was actually a result of a public referendum ... and I would think at a very minimum, if the decision was made not to do that, it should have to go back to the voters."

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez: "Right now, staff is telling us there just doesn't seem to be this looming evidence [of fluoride's dangers]. We should have worldwide health problems if it's as dramatic as it's being portrayed. But maybe some would argue we do have worldwide health problems. ... If folks want to look into our fluoride policies, fine – there are bigger issues to be dealt with."

City Council Member Chris Riley: Assistant City Manager Rudy Garza's report "makes an impressive case as regarding the widespread support for fluoridation. I think it adds to our understanding of the case for maintaining that practice here in Austin." – W.D.

And I'm not exactly sure why it emanated from the city manager's office. That is surprising to me, because the Environmental Board's recommendation was to the council." However, the Environmental Board serves in a purely advisory capacity and can't force the council to act on its recommendations. Moreover, it sounds like there was a communication lapse between the groups. Phil Moncada, board secretary, was surprised to hear about the report, which he had yet to see. "Why would we have moved forward asking council to do something, if it was already being done?"

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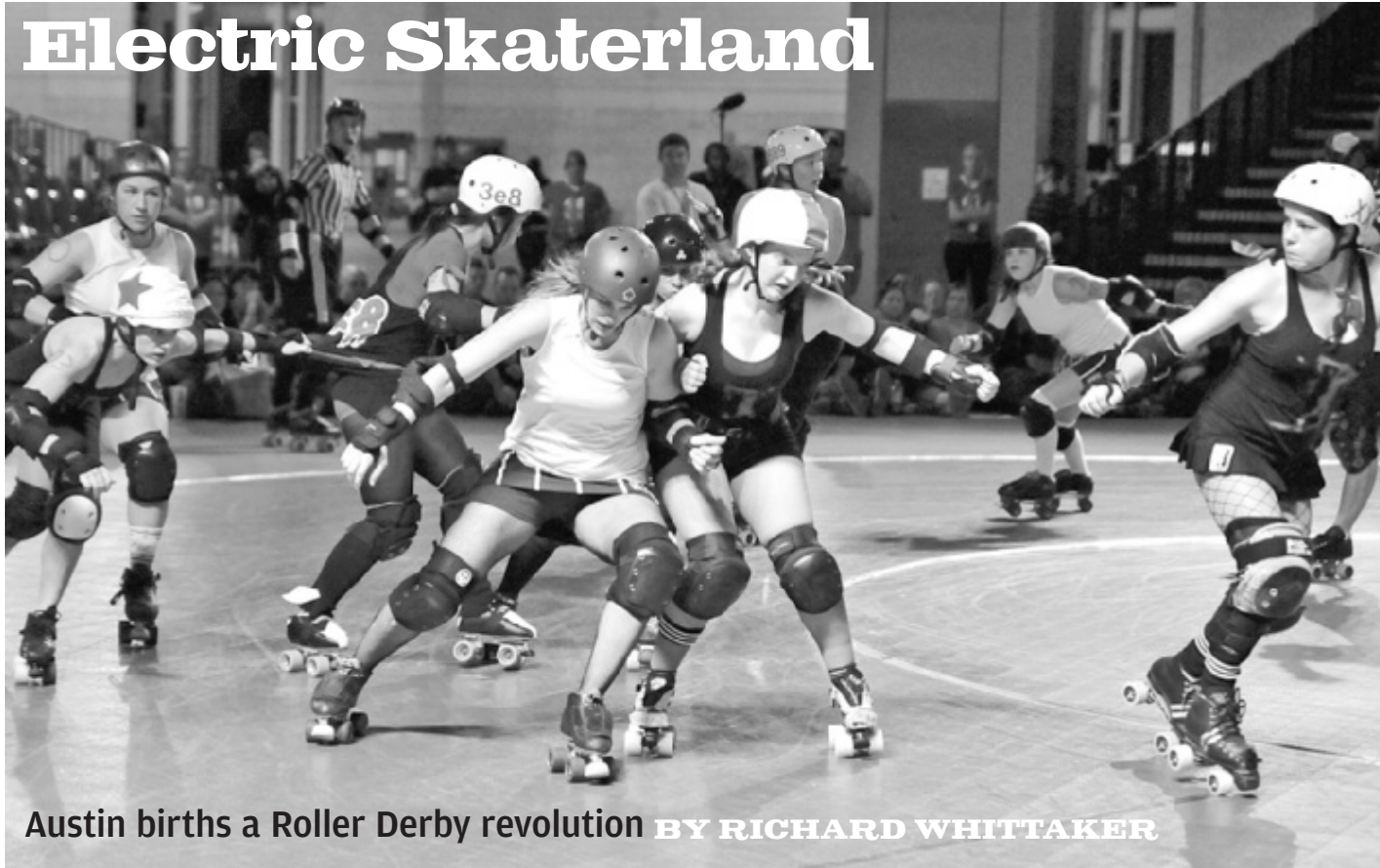
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Electric Skaterland



Austin births a Roller Derby revolution **BY RICHARD WHITTAKER**

The worst sound in Roller Derby is silence. That means a skater is down and hasn't gotten back up. As the crowd reminds overzealous referees, flat-track Roller Derby is a full-contact sport, but when a skater falls and the EMTs hit the track, an eerie quiet descends. Midway through the Women's Flat Track Derby Association's 2009 national championship title bout on Nov. 15, Vicious Van Go Go of the Texecutioners is on the floor and not moving. Her teammates from Austin's Texas Rollergirls league and their rivals, the Oly Rollers from Washington State, take a knee. This could be serious, as the injured skaters on crutches or in wheelchairs around the track can testify. When Vicious rises to her skates, bruised but fine, the 2,000 fans in Hall A in Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Convention Center applaud. And the skaters go back to knocking one another across the track.

A week earlier, Vicious' teammates Lucille Brawl and Cat Tastrophe were at Scholz Garten, on a lunch break from their state jobs. The night before, both trained hard for two hours at Playland Skate Center with the rest of the league: drills, scrimmage, endurance training, repeat. They've kept that schedule all year, four nights a week, plus seven home bouts, multiple traveling games, speed classes, hosting boot camps for rookie skaters from across the nation, administrative jobs with the league, and whatever extra workouts they can fit in. Across the nation, 11 other teams who had fought their way through regional qualifiers were preparing for nationals the same way, with the same dedication. Cat, known outside of derby as Franny Zarate, said: "It takes over your life, but you get to travel the whole country and

stay with all these new friends. That's something we only dreamed of in the beginning."

Not every Austinite knows about women's flat-track Roller Derby. Fewer are aware that it's played here. A subsection may know that the modern flat-track derby revolution started here at the turn of the millennium and has spread like wildfire. There are now an estimated 400 Roller Derby leagues internationally. Some skate on expensive and custom-built banked tracks, but most simply tape the track outline on a flat space and play there. The majority of leagues are U.S.-based, but there are others in Canada, Australia, Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Scandinavia, and even the United Arab Emirates. There are dozens of bouts every weekend, interleague tournaments, and an annual convention (RollerCon in Las Vegas). The sport has its own superstars, such as Austin's own speedy little Rice Rocket or the imposing Beyonslay from New York's Gotham Girls. There are two glossy magazines (*FiveOnFive* and *Blood & Thunder*) and even fashion lines, such as Derby or Die and

Derbylove. The sport also has its own governing body: 78 leagues are full-fledged members of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association, 24 more are in the apprentice program, and more leagues inquire all the time. Cat explained, "The revolution is about flat-track derby and how many people can do it and how you just need a flat space."

There is no such thing as an archetypal female Roller Derby player, no standard age or size or build. There are ex-competitive speed and figure skaters, former rugby and soccer players, and women who have avoided sports since high school. And, contrary to the trite myth, tattoos and an expert knowledge of every bar on Red River aren't mandatory. What's required instead is commitment. Derby isn't a hobby to be strapped on like knee pads once a month, but is so all-consuming and character-defining that some players respond to their adopted derby names quicker than their real names.

From day one, modern flat-track derby has been about all-female teams, all-female man-

Lucille Brawl (center) blocks while Olivia Shootin' John (left) takes a skirt-whip off Rice Rocket (3e8) as the Texas Rollergirls' travel team, the Texecutioners, faces the Oly Rollers at the WFTDA 2009 finals in Philadelphia.

agement, and everyone working and skating on an amateur and volunteer basis. Not only have the Texas Rollergirls consistently placed highly in the national rankings, but they have been part of Roller Derby's growth at every turn of the track. Without the Texies (as fans know them), odds are there would have been no Philly nationals, but the speed of the revolution still astounds the hometown team. Lucille (nonderby name Lara Bell) explained: "I always used to say, 'Not in my derby lifetime.' I knew it was coming, but it just happened so much faster than anyone could ever think."

Once Upon a Time at Playland

The timeline seems impossible. A decade ago, there was no modern Roller Derby, until Daniel "Devil Dan" Policarpo held a recruitment shindig at Casino el Camino in 2001. By 2002, Policarpo was gone, and approximately 80 skaters formed Bad Girl, Good Woman Productions, the nation's first contemporary women's Roller Derby league. The fledgling sport nearly died again in 2003 when internal tensions ripped the league apart. Instead, two leagues emerged: the banked-track TXRD Lonestar Rollergirls and the flat-track Texas Rollergirls. Initially, both concentrated on home bouts, but while TXRD has primarily stayed local, the Texas Rollergirls took a different path. Cat explained, "After the split, we really wanted to grow the sport nationally and internationally." There was also a little bit of self-interest. She added, "We have four home teams [the Hustlers, the Hell Marys, the Honky Tonk Heartbreakers, and the Hotrod Honeys] that play each other season after season, and we just wanted to play other people and see what they had to offer."

Fortunately, the eyes of Roller Derby were upon Texas. From day one, skaters from fledgling leagues in New York, Wisconsin, and Minnesota traveled to watch Austin bouts and learn from the innovators. Cat said: "There was no footage on the Internet, so they'd come to see us, and it started this whole conversation. That's where the WFTDA started." Beyond providing a talking shop for rules debates, the WFTDA also facilitated the growth of interleague play, and Texas participated in the first-ever travel team

COURTESY OF FELICIA GRAHAM

HOW TO PLAY WOMEN'S ROLLER DERBY, TEXAS ROLLERGIRLS-STYLE (A VERY SIMPLE GUIDE)

- 1) Find a flat space to mark out the oval track, 88 feet by 55 feet.
- 2) Assemble two teams of up to 14 skaters. Make sure they all have pads, helmets, and mouth guards.
- 3) Each team puts four players on the start line. That's the pack: three blockers and one pivot, who controls the speed of the track. Behind the pack is the jammer, and she is the only one who can score points.
- 4) Get a timer: Intraleague bouts last for two 20-minute periods, interleague and tournament bouts for two 30-minute periods.
- 5) First whistle blow, the pack starts rolling. Second whistle, the jammers start.
- 6) The jammers must get through the pack once: After their first pass, they score a point for each blocker they pass, or five if they pass the entire pack and lap the other jammer (that's called a grand slam). It's the pack's job to stop them by blocking, either by getting in the way or by using their bodies as battering rams. Each jam lasts two minutes, unless one jammer gets lead jammer status by making it through the pack first with no penalties. The jammer can call the jam at any time.
- 7) Stay safe, and stay out of the penalty box.

-R.W.



Cat Tastrophe (seated) of the Texecutioners talks strategy with teammate Bloody Mary.

COURTESY OF FELICIA GRAHAM

bouts, visiting Arizona in 2004 for a double-header against teams from Tucson and Phoenix. While the new competition was great, Cat said, sacrificing total autonomy and total control of their sport took some getting used to for Texas, because “there’s a national association that’s changing the game we invented. But it makes it better, because we have people to play with. There are more minds thinking about it, so it makes it make more sense.”

From Texas to Philly and Madison and ...

It also means that there are more teams to help spread the word and carry the administrative load. But even as more leagues excel within the sport and become WFTDA cornerstones, Philly Roller Girl Vanessa “Euro Thrash” Jackson proposed one word that summed up how those other leagues feel about Texas: “respect.” She knows exactly what it takes to build this sport: As a Philly league board member, she helped organize the annual midsummer East Coast Derby Extravaganza and the 2009 nationals, nicknamed this year the Declaration of Derby in honor of the host town. Set up in the control room above the rink during nationals, keeping one eye on the track, she recalled her first experience skating against the Texies. “I will never forget, at nationals last year, standing on the line next to skaters whose names I had been hearing for years, who I knew were legends in the Roller Derby community as founders of this sport. It was just one of the most amazing feelings.”

That reputation was made both on and off the track. Although the rules and management of WFTDA are decided by a nationally selected board and by the constant involvement of member leagues, some pivotal elements distinguishing contemporary women’s flat-track Roller Derby – like that democratic, grassroots decisionmaking process – were defined in Austin. From the “by the skaters, for the skaters” ethos to the sassy skate names and even to the inscription on the championship cup (the Hydra, named after a founding Texas Rollergirls member and former WFTDA

president), the Texies’ mark has been left. Cat explained: “You’d go to another city and go: ‘That track size? We made that.’”

Every year the Texies try to stay competitive as new leagues form and old teams get smarter and faster. Their reputation remains strong enough that some players, lovingly dubbed the Transercutioners, move to Austin just to roll with them. Crackerjack, formerly of the Mad Rollin’ Dolls from Madison, Wis., is one of those imports. She said: “I got into [derby] because of the Texas Rollergirls. Anyone who started playing in 2004, that’s the answer.” She had another reason to move to the Austin, since off the rink she’s Colleen Bell, sister of Lara Bell. It was watching her sister skate with “Lucille Brawl” on her uniform that inspired her. In the crowd for an inaugural season bout, she said, “I felt the stirring, and I had to see if it could be done in Madison.”

Following the Texas model, she hosted a recruiting party that summer. She said, “We had hot wings, and that brought people as much as Roller Derby, because nobody had any idea what we were talking about.” A DVD of a Texas bout helped, but so did having a real Texas skater present. Crackerjack recalled: “Hydra was up for her work as a hydrologist. She talked to us a lot, gave us good advice and good direction, even skated with us in our open skate.” Five months later, Madison started bouting. Five years later Crackerjack, now a Hotrod Honey and a Texecutioner, is WFTDA president, and she’s seen the Austin-born DIY ethos flourish. She explained, “At the end of the day, it’s about someone knocking down and taking care of business, and there are a lot of women who do that.”

Spreading the Derby Love

2009 has been a critical year for the WFTDA. The exponential and continual growth of teams and leagues was putting pressure on the volunteer management. This had happened before, in 2006, when the

CONTINUED ON P.38



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association hit its self-imposed cap of 30 leagues. Back then the solution was to split into two regions, delineated by the Mississippi River. After a member league vote earlier this year, the association became four regions, and two full-time employees were hired to handle the increased workload. Again, the Texies were there: Salt City Derby Girls referee Shelli Wiggins became the first WFTDA insurance administrator, while Juliana Gonzales, better known to Texas Rollergirls fans as the lean Bloody Mary, became its first executive director. A Roller Derby player since 2002, like most skaters she's always kept one wheel on the track and one in the management side – again, a cultural legacy from Austin and the early leagues. Bloody Mary said: “In Texas Rollergirls, each of the girls has to have a league job. That can be anything from chief of operations in charge of bout productions to entering the data to the statistics.” New recruits have to work crew on a bout before they can play on a team. That way, she said, they learn that “the modern flat-track Roller Derby movement is a balance of a female-owned sports organization and a recreational sport. Most of our members have that pretty well in balance, and that's why it tends to take over your life.”

It also takes a physical toll: Serious accidents are fortunately rare, but nagging injuries are as common as stinky wrist guards and pusher-foot calluses from where the skate rubs. Watching can be an education in pain. The first time Euro

Thrash took her parents to see Philly vs. Madison, a skater landed so hard on her tail bone right in front of them that tears of shock came out. Thrash said, “My mom came up to me at half-time and goes, ‘You find that girl, and you let me know if she's OK, because you girls are tough and she is crying.’” After the bout, she came back up and told her daughter, “You girls have pulled off something completely amazing.” At the time, Thrash was working two jobs: “Skating three times a week and still helping pull off the [East Coast Derby

Extravaganza]. She knows that all the other girls are just like me and will dedicate all this time to just making stuff happen.”

Derby Wives, Derby Widowers

There can also be an emotional cost. With a skater around, partners and families have to find a place for derby and skaters in their lives. Most skaters develop a Roller Derby wife – a combination travel buddy, training pal, and confidante – some going as far as getting tattooed with her name. That massive time and emotional commitment can be tough on spouses and partners. Lucille Brawl explained: “They think they're being supportive because their lady's going to be doing something fun and hot, and then a year down the line, they're like, ‘Do you remember me?’ They stop being so hot in their cute little outfit.”

For John Porter, husband of veteran Texie Desi Craton, finding his place in the sport was easy, since derby came first. A lifelong sports fan and a veteran of Austin's ComedySportz improv show, back in the Bad Girl, Good Woman days he saw an advert in the *Chronicle* for the second-ever bout. He said: “I lived across the street from Playland Skate rink, so Sunday afternoon, I dropped over there. I just remember getting a bunch of Lone Stars, smoking cigarettes inside, and, somewhere around the second quarter, going, ‘Oh, the girl with the star on her head – she's the one scoring points.’” Two years later, he became league announcer Jim “Kool-Aid” Jones (no favoritism – he met Desi when she was still

skating for the Minnesota RollerGirls, and, in true derby fashion, he proposed to her on the track). Now better known as just Koolaid, he's the Texecutioners' coach. He admitted, “I didn't expect this was where it was going to end up.” It puts him in the odd position of being one of the few men near the track, but that's nothing new. “I'm a registered nurse, so I work in a traditionally female-dominated profession. I'm not entirely unaware of being in a high-pressure environment.” As for his job as coach, he said: “I'm not a big strategy guy. All that comes from

FROM PLAYLAND 2003 TO PHILLY 2009: THE GROWTH OF THE TEXAS ROLLERGIRES AND THE WOMEN'S FLAT TRACK DERBY ASSOCIATION

2003 Texas Rollergirls splits from Bad Girl, Good Woman Productions and establish four home teams.

2004 United Leagues Coalition forms as an online forum among new leagues. Texas travels to Arizona for the nation's first interleague bouts as red and blue teams.

2005 First formal ULC meeting between founding leagues: ULC becomes Women's Flat Track Derby Association and issues rule set 1.0.

2006 WFTDA divides into East and West regions. Texas Rollergirls selects its Texecutioners traveling team and wins the first-ever WFTDA championship tournament, then suffer the first interleague loss.

2007 WFTDA joins USA Roller Sports, the national governing body of competitive roller sports. Rule set 2.0 issued. Texecutioners place third at nationals.

2008 WFTDA institutes insurance program for member leagues and issues rule set 3.0: Texas Rollergirls Hotrod Honeys play the first international bout against Hammer City. Texecutioners place fourth at nationals.

2009 WFTDA divides into four regions (East, West, South Central, North Central), hires first paid staff. Montreal Roller Derby becomes first non-U.S. WFTDA member league, London Rollergirls become first sanctioned league outside of North America. Texas Rollergirls place second at nationals. —R.W.



COURTESY OF FELICIA GRAHAM

It's a family affair: Crackerjack (100) and her sister Lucille Brawl (56) celebrate with their mother, known in derby circles as Gigi String.

the team and [coach Black Widow], who manages the bench. I'm more the camp counselor, because I'm surrounded by 25 women with different backgrounds and different issues, and somehow I have to help stabilize that into a cohesive unit.”

There can be a place for men around the sport, as many refs, photographers, coaches, and EMTs carry a Y chromosome. Sometimes it takes a little of the trademark Roller Derby DIY instinct, like the superfans that get adopted by teams as crowd wranglers. Hurt Reynolds (“government name Chris Seale,” he joked drily) is one of the managing editors of Derby News Network, the sport's dedicated online news and stats service. At the Philly tournament, he was on the announcers' podium, running a streaming-text boutcast and keeping an eye on points and penalties. In between bouts, he said: “In 2004 there weren't even a dozen intercity bouts. This year, there were about 2,000, and I expect that to double next year.” This is a big weekend for DNN, but the Roller Derby world doesn't stop for nationals. He said, “I have a pile of scores from bouts all over the world that I have to enter, and I'm busy here.”

A former scorekeeper for Seattle's Rat City Rollergirls, he describes the Texies as “the mothers of it all. They were the best, they were unbeatable for the longest time, and they are the one that tens of thousands of women in the sport look up to.” As for men who think that they can horn in on the sport, he has a simple warning: “The women who get involved in this are savvy and can smell it a mile away. If you're not sincere, if you're not coming into it because the whole package appeals to you, you're not going to be welcome.” That's actually a bonus for those who are serious about the sport. He noted, “In an environment where everybody has to pass that trust threshold, everyone in it has passed that threshold with each other.”

Back on the track, the quest for Texas' second Hydra in four years ended in defeat. The Oly Rollers took the title bout, 178-100. There were tears on the Texecutioner bench. Koolaid, in his trademark fedora, consoled the team, and then there were cheers and photo ops as each member received her medal.

After recovering from the bouts and the travel and the afterparty hangovers, the training begins again. There's a draft of new recruits – some seasoned transfers, some determined newcomers – to replace retirees. Then the double countdown starts ticking to the next home season and to regionals for a slot at the 2010 WFTDA finals, the Uproar on the Lakeshore, in Chicago next November. Before then, the Texas Rollergirls' Hustlers will make more history in March when they travel to the UK to face London Brawling in the first-ever intercontinental bout. There will be wins, and there will be losses, but before Philly, Lucille Brawl talked about the first time Texas ever lost a bout. Dec. 2, 2006: the Tucson Saddletramps rocked the Roller Derby world when they beat the Texecutioners in overtime, 62-60. She explained: “I was trackside, and I was happy to lose. I was like: ‘Look what we made. If we're not winning all the time, it's a real sport now.’”

For Bloody Mary, there's still one hill to climb. She said: “We go to tournaments, and people hug us, crying, and say, ‘Thank you for starting Roller Derby.’ But in Austin, Texas, 99 percent of the population has no idea who we are. That's fine from a personal standpoint, but I would love it to be one of our city's points of pride.” ■

The Texas Rollergirls hold their annual boot camp for skaters from beginners to veterans Dec. 11-13, and the new home season begins Feb. 28 at Playland Skate Center. Members of the league will also be competing as part of the Queen of the Hive open invitational, Dec. 5-6, at DFW Roller Sports in Fort Worth.

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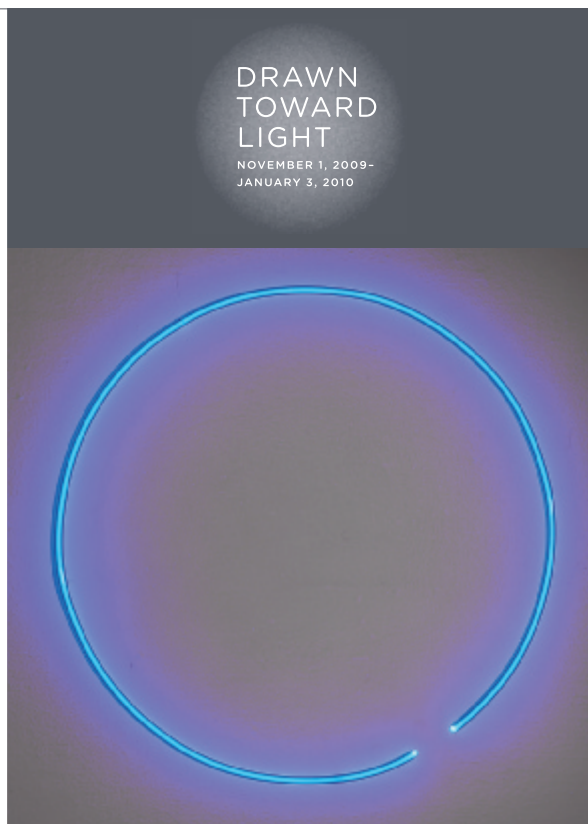
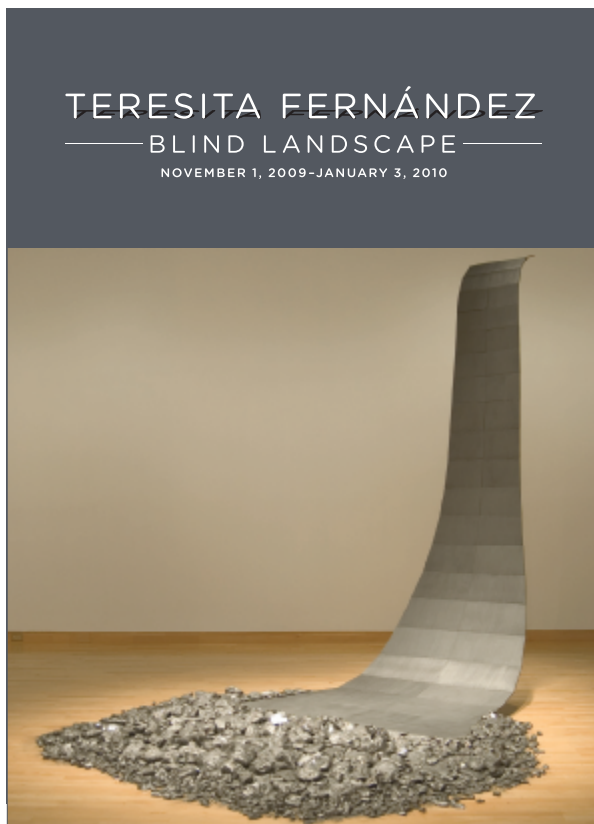
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Teresita Fernández: Blind Landscape is a survey of recent works from this internationally celebrated contemporary artist.

Stephen Antonakos, Paul Chan, James Turrell, and Leo Villareal explore the use of light as a medium in *Drawn Toward Light*.

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Teresita Fernández: *Blind Landscape* is organized by the USF Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa. The exhibition is curated by David Louis Norr, Chief Curator, USF Institute for Research in Art. Project assistance is provided by Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Arts Council. Major support for the exhibition at The Blanton is provided by Jeanne and Michael Klein and the Linda Pace Foundation. Funding is also provided by Lora Reynolds and Quincy Lee in honor of Jeanne and Michael Klein. | *Drawn Toward Light* is organized by the Blanton Museum of Art.

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: Teresita Fernández, *Drawn Waters (Borrowdale)*, 2009, Natural and machined graphite on steel, 121 x 43 x 86 in., Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin Gallery, NY; Stephen Antonakos, *Untitled (Blue Neon Circle)*, c. 1974, Neon tube (cobalt blue), 35 in. diameter, Blanton Museum of Art, Gift of Vera Simons

THE arts

KELLY FEARING

A mystic in the 21st century



COURTESY OF SANDY CARSON

"It's the house with the blue door," Kelly Fearing reminds me over the phone. *Bright blue*, a color found in many tones in Fearing's natural world – the world in his paintings, now on view in "Kelly Fearing: Selections From a Life in Art" in the University of Texas' Bass Concert Hall.

Fearing sits at a table in his spacious studio with a new copy of *Artforum* in front of him and a catalog of his 60-year retrospective to one side. We pore over paintings – in the book, in the studio, in other rooms in the house. The afternoon's conversation travels through place, time, and subject, always connecting to the touchstone of art. As naturally as things grow in his paintings, talk branches out to other interests and life events, related minor chords in his symphonic paintings: music, world mythologies, aquariums, collecting fish, the lives of saints, the natural world, experimenting with materials and techniques, bodybuilding, yoga, studying at Columbia, living in the Chelsea Hotel, how he came to art. Everything connects to art, nodes extending out from the core like the star points of a snowflake, each its own exquisite pattern.

A much beloved figure in Austin, Fearing is a living treasure and living history – an Old Master of the Fort Worth Circle. The group of like-minded artists and friends formed in the 1940s was the focus of an exhibition at the Amon Carter Museum in 2008. The Circle, so named 60 years after the fact, was instrumental in bringing the influence of avant-garde European art to a Texas that knew only bluebonnets and Western art. Fearing came to Austin in 1947 and taught at UT for 40 years, retiring in 1987.

At 91, Fearing still keeps a full schedule. He continues making and showing art, exploring new materials and methods and partnering with chance to see what happens, a hallmark of his lifelong art practice.

Looking at Fearing's art, both at the exhibition and in his studio, made me ruminate about how art changes when you factor in time and its sidekick, ever-changing context. How we look at a lifetime of art is different from how we look at new art, right out of the crucible. Much like reality, art is what it is from its inception. Yet our responses to art change as we change. Art ages as we age, and then we are gone, and another generation looks with ever-changing eyes. But in essence, the art remains the same, despite our changing visions of it.

One thing that has remained steady for me in Fearing's paintings is a sense of spirituality that transcends religion, whether or not the subject relates to saints or gurus, twin subjects that appear again and again. I ask Fearing about the spirituality in his subject matter or, rather, the connection to spirit as an animating force.

"I am not a religious painter," Fearing says. "I use the saints because they were in impossible situations." The saints, he continues, provided a form of surrealism in the postwar world. Fearing is drawn to saints who are mystics rather than martyrs, and who, by my account, have resonant spirits with the painter himself. Fearing is equally influenced by stories of Buddha, Zen, Daoism, and the lives of the saints. Much like his time with the Fort Worth Circle, Fearing is bridging boundaries that separate one from the other.

Fearing's paintings not only hold up over time, they draw me in deeper. His work is deeply personal and enigmatic. The art exudes a special spirit, much like the artist himself, whether one finds it in the rock formations, the birds and animals, the saints or the gurus, or simply the art itself.

– Madeline Irvine

"Kelly Fearing: Selections From a Life in Art" is on display on the fifth floor of Bass Concert Hall, East 23rd Street & Robert Dedman Drive, through Jan. 14, from 11am to 2pm Monday-Friday and during performances.



JOHN ANDERSON

BILL NARUM In memoriam

Another member of that legendary creative crew who helped fuse the worlds of art and music in Austin has painted his last canvas. Bill Narum, who created many a poster for the Armadillo World Headquarters as an artist with Sheauxnough Studios in the Seventies and who developed the distinctive visuals of That Little Ol' Band From Texas, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 18, at his home east of Austin. He was 62. Apparently the victim of a heart attack, Narum died as he lived: in his studio at his art table. In his early 20s, he helped give Houston a little counterculture cred with striking illustrations for the underground paper *Space City News*. By the time he relocated to Austin, the town of his birth, a few years later, Narum was applying his extravagant graphics sensibility to posters for music shows from Bill Monroe to Captain Beefheart, Ravi Shankar to Humble Pie. And his friendship with guitarist Billy Gibbons led to Narum becoming the artist of choice for ZZ Top, for whom he produced cover art for albums, murals adorning the trio's fleet of semis, and the stage design for the 1975-76 Worldwide Texas tour. In the Eighties, his GO-GO Studios provided posters, logo designs, and album art direction for the likes of Doug Sahm, Nanci Griffith, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. In recent years, he also worked to celebrate and preserve the creations of his fellow Austin artists as the president of the board of the South Austin Museum of Popular Culture, where he was honored with his own four-decade retrospective, "You Call That Art?" in 2005. For more on Narum's outstanding art and legacy, see Margaret Moser's appreciation, "Bill Narum: We Call That Art," on Chronolog, and an announcement in "Off the Record," p.65, with information on memorial services. He will be missed.

– Robert Faires

Okay Mountain gives you something to chew



OKAY MOUNTAIN/RUDE MECHS collective movement

Two of the city's most creative collectives are hitting the road again in coming months, enlivening a pair of international cultural festivals with some of their trademark Austin mischief. Next week, the visual-arts crew at Okay Mountain blasts off to Miami to show off its *Corner Store*, a site-specific, immersive installation, at Pulse Contemporary Art Fair. Arthouse at the Jones Center commissioned the work, which will turn Arthouse's fair booth into a bogus convenience store, with every inch covered in handcrafted art that mimics quickie-mart decor and goods: The counters, coolers, food products, posters, zines, paintings, even an ambient soundtrack and security monitor video will all be handmade by the Okay Mountaineers, and, better yet, every item will be for sale. Although the collective notes that "carrying along the convenience store theme, the prices of our goods will be inflated (due to conve-



Thomas Graves and Jude Hickey in *The Method Gun* (2008)

nience) but still very reasonably priced." You just pay the store clerk (an Okay Mountain artist, natch), just like you would at the corner icehouse!

Meanwhile, next spring, the Rude Mechanicals will be firing *The Method Gun*

once more, this time at the 2010 Humana Festival of New American Plays produced by the Actors Theatre of Louisville in Louisville, Ky. This will be the third version of this exploration of the life and techniques of Stella Burden, actor-training guru of the Sixties and Seventies, whose technique, the Approach, was dubbed "the most dangerous acting technique in the world." But just as the restless Rudes made changes to the piece that premiered at the Long Center in 2008 when they staged it at the Off Center the following year, they'll be reworking the piece yet again for Humana. The festival will sponsor a three-week workshop for the show prior to a new world premiere showing March 16-28, 2010. To see what other shows will be premiering alongside the new *Gun* at this year's Humana Festival, visit www.actorstheatre.org/humana.htm. – R.F.

'Bacchae' to the Future

How in (a Greek) god's name can the Rude Mechs re-create 'Dionysus in 69' in '09?

BY ROBERT FAIRES

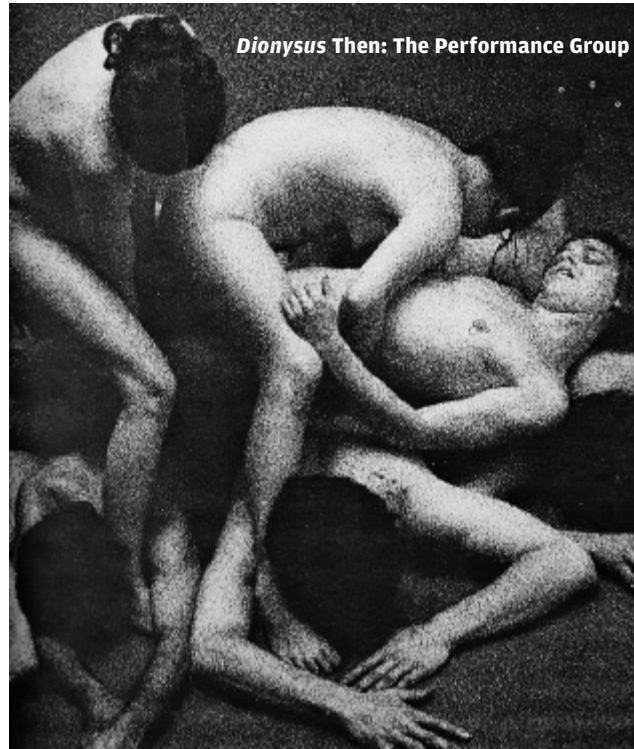
"Dionysus taught me everything I know."

In making this statement to the crowd in the lobby of the B. Iden Payne Theatre last week, Richard Schechner could well have been referring in shorthand to *Dionysus in 69*, the groundbreaking experimental adaptation of *The Bacchae* that he created with the Performance Group 41 years ago. That was the subject of his talk, and it certainly ranks as a watershed project for him as a director. But it's equally valid to interpret his reference as being to the man-deity himself, whose actions propel Euripides' tragedy. After all, as Schechner described him to the assembled that evening, Dionysus is a god of dancing, free sexuality, revelry, and ecstasy, and all of those elements have informed Schechner's theatrical work and were part of what made *Dionysus in 69* such a revolutionary and influential work in American theatre.

The Performance Group production gleefully took a sledgehammer to the fourth wall that kept audiences comfortably separated from the action on stage. In the East Village garage where the performances took place, the entire space was the stage, with the spectators — who had no fixed seats, just scaffolding on which to perch and walls against which to lean — being approached by actors and actively solicited to take part in dances and ritual activities. It was a kind of interaction made all the more transgressive — and, as the production garnered attention, all the more notorious — by the fact that much of the cast frequently performed the play in the nude — women and men. This encouraged some who bought tickets to consider the show little more than a free-for-all orgy, but what Schechner and company were really after was a means

for audiences to experience firsthand something of the ecstatic freedom that the women of Thebes were said to enjoy in *The Bacchae* when they followed Dionysus to the mountain outside the city and joined in his frenzied rites of worship. That identification with the Theban women had a secondary purpose later in the play: leading the audience to be implicated in the murder of Pentheus, the Theban ruler who, in Euripides' original, is torn limb from limb by the women after a vengeful Dionysus makes them see Pentheus as a lion invading their camp. Through the sort of willful deception that is at the heart of theatre — what you're seeing is not what it truly is — the god is getting his followers to do what he wants. And in *Dionysus in 69* and his subsequent stage work, Schechner has done much the same thing. "I make no bones about it: I'm a manipulator," he told the Payne Theatre crowd. "Your job is to resist or not, as the case may be."

Now, four decades after *Dionysus in 69* rattled the cages of the American theatre, Schechner has come to Austin much as the titular god came to Thebes: a much-lauded figure out of the East seeking new participants in his revels. The key difference here is that Schechner doesn't need to bring a band of dancing, drinking, true-believing maenads with him; they're already here. Local theatrical mavericks the Rude Mechanicals have been



Dionysus Then: The Performance Group



And Now: The Rude Mechanicals

carrying the torch of the Performance Group and incorporating many of its tradition-busting practices into their own productions for 13 years now. In fact, within the company, *Dionysus in 69* has been the stuff of legend, a production revered for its innovation and daring and impact on audiences. So esteemed is the work by the Rudes that they are taking on their shoulders the ambitious, audacious task of re-creating the production four decades after the fact, something almost no one has attempted in all the years since.

Madge Darlington, one of the collective's six co-producing artistic directors (co-PADS for short) and a co-director of the Rude Mechs' re-creation, describes the project as a way for the Rudes both to pay tribute to the artists whose work has influenced them and to gain a deeper sense of how they accomplished what they did by doing it themselves. "What are these shoulders we're standing on?" is the question the Rudes asked themselves. Actually mounting a work such as *Dionysus in 69*, says Darlington, "is a way for us to learn that and to show our audiences, 'This is where we come from.'" If all goes well with this re-creation — or, knowing the Rudes, even if it doesn't (maybe especially if it doesn't) — other re-creations of innovative and influential avant-garde works from the Sixties, Seventies, and Eighties will follow.

Of course, putting one of these breakthrough performances back on stage isn't like throwing up just one more revival of *Othello* or *The Odd Couple*. The Rude Mechs aren't merely taking a script and giving it their own spin. They're adamantly striving to be as faithful as possible to the original presentation. With *Dionysus in 69*, that's meant studying whatever documentation exists on the show and its creation — primarily, Brian De Palma's film of the production and the 1970 book *Dionysus in 69: The Performance*

Group — and scrupulously working out their blocking, movements, and, yes, that infamous interaction with the audience according to the information therein. And, perhaps most importantly, they've approached as authoritative a figure as exists with regard to the show — its director — to assist them in achieving the greatest level of accuracy.

During Schechner's Austin visit in November, facilitated by the University of Texas' Humanities Institute, which awarded him its 2009-10 Cline Centennial Visiting Professorship, the director was able to look at the show as it had been pieced together by the Rudes and fill in gaps in their knowledge, say, staging that wasn't visible in De Palma's filming or that had been edited out of the final cut. And in cases where changes from the original production were inevitable — the Performance Group's Wooster Street garage could accommodate 200-300 people, but for safety reasons attendance for the Rudes' performances will be limited to 99 people — Schechner offered suggestions that preserved the spirit of the original. "This play depends upon body heat," he noted, so why not cut a few platforms and close the space in some. Co-PAD Shawn Sides, who is also co-directing the re-creation and who studied with Schechner at New York University in the Nineties, says, "His presence, knowledge, intelligence — it has all been very inspiring and has helped us breathe more life into the work."

Schechner, however, points out that no re-creation of *Dionysus in 69* in 2009 can capture the true feel of the show because the times are so different. The original production opened the day after Robert F. Kennedy's assassination and two months after Martin Luther King Jr.'s. It was the year of the violent protests at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, the massacre of student protesters in Mexico City, student and worker strikes

Richard Schechner



Dionysus in 09

The Humanities Institute is hosting *Recreating Dionysus in 69*, a preshow talk with Richard Schechner and the Rude Mechs Friday, Dec. 4, 7pm, at the Off Center, 2211 Hidalgo. The performance of *Dionysus in 69* follows at 8pm.

The Austin Film Society will present Brian De Palma's film *Dionysus in 69* Sunday, Dec. 6, 1pm, at Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 320 E. Sixth. This early work by the director attempts to translate the fourth-wall-obliterating style of the play to cinema by presenting it in split-screen, with cameras recording both the cast and the audience. Richard Schechner will be in attendance. — R.F.

in Paris, the occupation of Prague by Soviet tanks, and a surge in opposition to the Vietnam War so vocal and widespread that President Lyndon Johnson declined to seek a second term. That sense of the world in violent upheaval profoundly informed *Dionysus in 69's* portrayal of an established order being overturned, of repressed thoughts and impulses being unleashed. At the end of the performance, when William Finley's Dionysus would proclaim himself a successor to the president – the show's title works in part as a campaign slogan – the volatile elections of 1968 caused it to resonate in ways that it couldn't today.

Besides, insists Schechner, Finley was Finley, and his Dionysus grew out of who he was and what he experienced both in that time and in the Performance Group's collaborative process. And the same is true of William Shepherd and his Pentheus and Joan MacIntosh and her Agave, Pentheus' mother, and every other performer and role in the production. Having the Rude Mechs' Thomas Graves play William Finley playing Dionysus removes the personal stakes for the actor that were built into the original production, in Schechner's opinion.

"It lets him off the hook," he says. Because certain parts of the work are founded on game structures, it's crucial that the actor be engaged on the most immediate and personal level possible. Choices are offered to the actor, and he can't treat them as if the consequences don't matter. "These games are absolute," the director says. "The stakes are real. They may be tiny, little things, but they're real."

With all due respect to her former teacher, Sides doesn't see the Rudes' re-creation quite the same way. "On this production, I'm just not interested in whether Dionysus is hermaphroditic or Pentheus is 16," she says. "Those things are interesting generally, but that's never been our focus or way in to this piece. I'm interested in what William Finley was like and Bill Shepherd and Joan MacIntosh. And I don't care about Thebes or the Greeks or Euripides – I want to dig into downtown New York City in 1968 and the Performance Group. That history is the important one to me. Richard uses 'museum piece' as a bugaboo to try and dissuade us from using the original blocking and gestures and floor and speech patterns. But that is the exact phrase I've used from the beginning to describe what I want to do. We are not aiming to wow anyone with our own inventive or insightful adaptation of *The Bacchae*. That's a whole other production. We're more interested in making something akin to a Civil War re-enactment. We wanted to do this re-creation precisely because this

is the type of play Rudes would never do in a million years. And, even so, it deeply informs to our collective artistic history and aesthetic. And we know that the best way to learn about a play is to perform it.

"We know we can't re-create the context, and we can't re-create the 'feeling' of the original – in part because that revolution happened – it succeeded. We Rudes, and lots of other companies around the world, use our own names in our plays all the time, for instance. So *Dionysus in 69* will always be removed and nostalgic. But we believe the production will be illuminating and pretty fascinating as well.

"Local references make a great tool for engaging the audience. So we'll be layering in a little bit of Austin allusions and the actors' own names in order to relax the whole thing a little bit and to tip our hats to Richard's desires. We have a lot of love and respect for him. It's going to be confusing, but we'll do our dangedest to bring everyone along through playbill info and lobby signage. I'm not willing to give up the Performance Group's names. That's the most interesting part of the play to me. And Thomas is going to have to

figure out how to play William Finley playing Dionysus. He can do it! He's a really great actor and accustomed to dealing with 'layers.'"

Even with an idol of theirs, the Rudes can't resist bucking the system, rocking the boat, going their own way. Sides describes how Schechner reblocked the duet scenes between Dionysus and Pentheus and had Graves and Josh Meyer alter their body language to something more contemporary than was used in 1968. "In part, he said

he wants to correct his 'mistakes' – his word – from 40 years ago." However, she adds, "We like those 'mistakes,' and we'll be keeping the blocking and gestures from the film." It's almost as if the Dionysian Schechner has been recast as Pentheus, representing the established order that's being overturned – albeit in a small way – by the new gods in town. In which case, it's the Rudes' turn to say, "Dionysus taught me everything I know."

That said, if the Greek drama teaches us anything, it's that it's never wise to count the old god out, especially if he's as wily and subversive as a Dionysus. When asked how Schechner's presence affected the work that the Rudes had already been doing on *Dionysus in 69*, Sides replied, "Richard's presence was deeply inspirational and gratifying and horribly disruptive. Which is absolutely perfect for this project." ■

Dionysus in 69 will be performed Dec. 3-20, Thursday-Sunday, 8pm, at the Off Center, 2211 Hidalgo. For more information, call 476-7833 or visit www.rudemechs.com.

"We are not aiming to wow anyone with our own inventive or insightful adaptation of *The Bacchae*," says the Rude Mechs' Shawn Sides. "That's a whole other production. We're more interested in making something akin to a Civil War re-enactment."


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Something to Keep the Coffee Table Company

The season's best oversized books

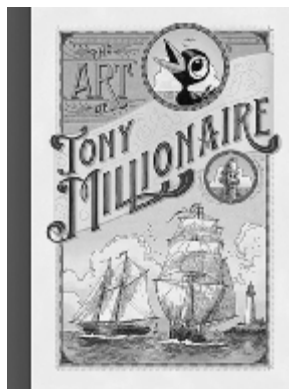
THE ART OF TONY MILLIONAIRE
by Tony Millionaire
Dark Horse, 200 pp., \$39.95

HOT POTATOE: [SIC]
by Marc Bell
Drawn & Quarterly,
273 pp., \$39.95

Two beautiful books considered here, both of them for your coffee table and the coffee table of your mind, both of them crowding the blunt and knobby apex of what's best and funniest and most poignant about comic art.

From Drawn & Quarterly comes *Hot Potatoe: [Sic]*, a compendium of "fine ahtwerks" by Canada's Marc Bell, little known outside the world of alternative comics, whose complex drawings within drawings within drawings are festooned with puns linguistic and visual and resemble masterpieces penned at the crossroads of personal whimsy and obsessive-compulsive disorder by some precocious 8-year-old. These images — ink and watercolor, single-main-figure and circuitous strips, from 2001 to 2008 — are presented full-color on fine glossy paper and interspersed with essays by the artist's cronies and co-conspirators, the accompanying texts flirting with fantasy almost as deeply as the illustrations do. Of special note in this collection are the many pages reproducing Bell's cardboard cutout constructions, wherein his weirdly populated universe emerges into almost three quirky dimensions beneath your fingertips.

Dark Horse Books, on the other hand, presents an artist who needs little introduction anywhere. Still, *The Art of Tony Millionaire* is introduced by no less a light than Elvis Costello and serves as a career-thus-far retrospective for the creator of the alt-comic *Maakies* strip and *Sock Monkey* comics, frequent illustrator for the McSweeney's parade of publications and beyond, and unparalleled limner of New England architecture and nautical trappings. Millionaire, as towering in person as his talent is in abstraction, has long treated the world to a contrasting mix of tones, his comics ranging from the scatologically depraved and relentlessly alcoholic debacles of *Drinky Crow* to the beautiful, heartbreaking adventures of *Sock Monkey* and his friends and many shades between. (Heartbreaking, did I say? See the two-page spread Millionaire drew to commemorate the death of *Raggedy Ann & Andy* creator Johnny Gruelle's 13-year-old daughter. See it, friend, and try to hold back the tears.) Here are full-page panels of sailing vessels and cartoon



loveliness, portraits of celebrities and artwork for records by Costello (who supplies the introduction) and They Might Be Giants, photomontages of early works and sketchbook outtakes and Millionaire ephemera. As with the Marc Bell compendium above, this gorgeous collection is further improved by text: Generous chunks of autobiography provide backstage glimpses of the artist's life and works, from his early days drawing commissioned portraits of rich people's houses to his drunken, college-age performance-art hijinks, his freelancing for alt-weeklies in New York and L.A., his *Sock Monkey* gig at Dark Horse, and the brief airing of *The Drinky Crow Show* on the Cartoon Network's Adult Swim program. Yes — oh my, yes — this volume comes ever so highly recommended. — Wayne Alan Brenner

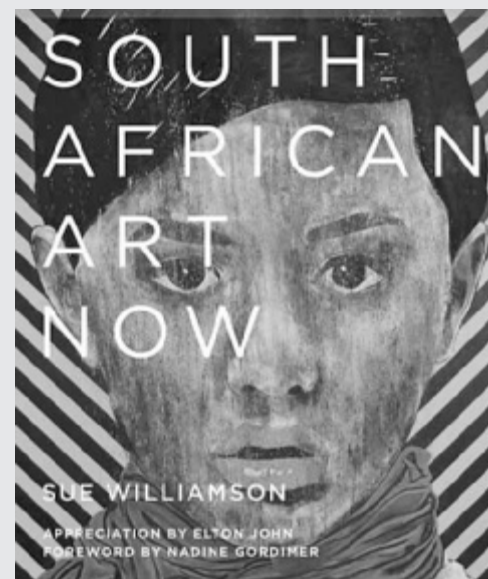
CALVIN LITTLEJOHN: PORTRAIT OF A COMMUNITY IN BLACK AND WHITE
by Bob Ray Sanders
Texas Christian University Press,
216 pp., \$29.95

When Calvin Littlejohn moved to Fort Worth, Texas, in 1934, it wasn't with the intention of righting a wrong. Born in Cotton Plant, Ark., the budding photographer hitched a ride with a family that had employed him as a domestic when jobs weren't forthcoming in Depression-era Arkansas. He had already learned the basics of photography, partly in response to racist depictions of African-Americans he saw around him: Upon being affronted by a billboard of a broadly grinning, buck-toothed black boy eating watermelon, he determined "to show the best side of these people that's being rejected so." He quickly got his chance in Fort Worth, photographing events at I.M. Terrell, the city's only black high school, and over the next 50 years or so became the de facto documentarian of Fort Worth's black community. *Calvin Littlejohn: Portrait of a Community in Black and White* is a testament to the photographer's tireless work and evolving vision — a visually incredible and intricate collective history in portraits and snapshots, commissioned events and candid of legendary entertainers (Ruth Brown, T-Bone Walker), athletes (Jackie Brown, Joe Louis), and political figures. The shot of Jesse Jackson in 1980, cutting up in *Saturday Night Fever* three-piece, cowboy hat, and porn stache, alone is

SOUTH AFRICAN ART NOW
by Sue Williamson
Collins Design, 320 pp., \$65

Don't assume by the title of this book that this is some lighthearted tour for armchair ethnographers or whimsical directory to a certain antipodean aesthetic. Author/curator Sue Williamson is one of her country's preeminent artists and critics, as well as a respected antiapartheid activist. The title may very well be a riff on (or jab at) the book *African Art Now* by Italian Jean Pigozzi, an internationally acclaimed art collector whose exuberant personal tastes and collection-lending is said to have greatly influenced the Western concept of contemporary African art, somewhat to the dismay of numerous experts such as Williamson. That said, the heft and gravity of Williamson's 320-pager may far exceed the typical mission of the coffeetable genre; while quite lovely to look at, this work is more likely to warm, nay, singe a spot in laps and proper libraries as much for its compelling commentary (by Williamson, curator Okwui Enwezor, Performa Biennial Director RoseLee Goldberg, Sir Elton John, and Nobel laureate/beloved ZA author Nadine Gordimer) as for its crucial and often jarring visuals. Some 97 artists are presented, some more than once and at different points in their careers and on the timeline. The book's first third is titled "The Last Century," a view of apartheid-era and immediately post-1994-election art: South African art "then," if you will, as essential context for South African art "now." The last two-thirds are dedicated to that very titular distinction: *South African Art Now*, a colorful posttraumatic history of the emergent postapartheid nation through the eyes of the artists whose own roles became manifest in a revolution.

— Kate X Messer



gift
guide
2009



worth the cover price, but *Littlejohn* is more than a hoot: It's a lively, loving document that shoots past the photographer's initial, redemptive goal to create a narrative of tiny nuances and tectonic shifts in a community fully alive and constantly changing.

— Cindy Widner

THE FUTURE OF FANTASY ART
edited by Aly Fell and Duddlebug
Collins Design, 192 pp., \$29.99

In high school, one of my art teachers would always have his own work on an easel at the front of the classroom. While his students were busy misrepresenting the human form again, he would pick up his oils and paint. His specialty was futuristic spaceships, and he would sell the finished pictures as cover art for science-fiction novels. Having seen the originals, with glaring rocket boosters and azure skies, it was always disappointing to see them reduced and degraded on the front of a mass-printed paperback. He admitted that it wasn't the



way he would prefer his work to be seen — the magnificence and imagination was somehow stripped away — but it paid the bills.

The book jacket market is still healthy for science-fiction and fantasy artists and has been supplemented in recent years by card-based fantasy games, all crying out for art. Volumes like this give that work a little more space to breathe and regain some of what was lost in the shrink. Cards probably deserve a large format even more than some book covers do: After all, it's pretty hard to make out any detail on an inch-square *Magic: The Gathering* illustration. What may be a little disappointing to some readers is that, while the tools have changed as more artists go digital, the state of fantasy art is still a little hidebound and could probably do with some

CONTINUED ON P.46

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David Bates, *The Deluge II*, 2006, Oil on canvas, 66 x 48 inches. Collection of Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemisegger
David Bates, *Beer and Cigarettes II*, 1997, Mixed media, 32 x 16 x 16 inches. Private Collection, Austin

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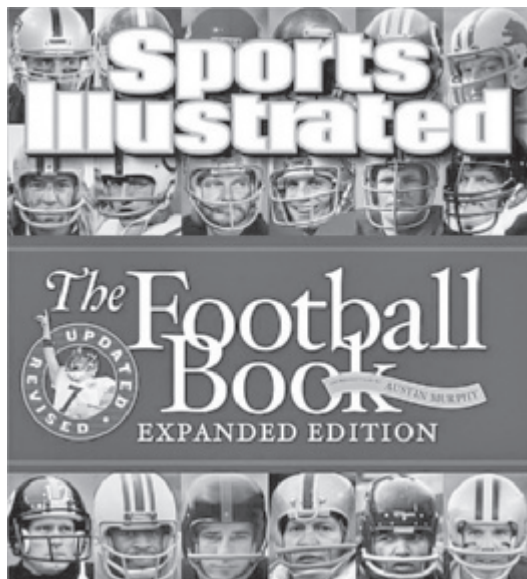


new tropes to play with. Yes, it's dragons and goblins and leather-clad elven warriors, oh my! But when the best and brightest of the artists included here flesh those old warhorses out, like Sven Geruschkat proves with his Disney-aping photorealistic CGI *Evil Witch*, the conventions can still have life breathed into them. Same with the elegiac Victoriana of Simon Dominic Brewer's *The Last Dragon*, in which aging gentlemen in top hats poke at the corpse of a rotting draken in the gray autumn dusk. While many of the memes stay the same, what becomes most apparent may be the new influences. Muscle fetishist Frank Frazetta and prog rock artist of choice Roger Dean have left their finger marks on the canvas, while Alphonse Mucha and the Pre-Raphaelites remain as pivotal to the more fanciful and fairy-filled end of the genre as always. But it's hard not to recognize the brutal impact of Francis Bacon on Raymond Swanland's sinister *Written in Bone* or the Alberto Vargas-style cheesecake playful sexuality of Daniela Uhlig's *Blindman's Bluff*, in which bees and pixies frolic. This collection not only draws together all these diverse offspring of the fantasy masters but gives them the large format and glossy presentation that they truly deserve.

— Richard Whittaker

**SPORTS ILLUSTRATED:
THE FOOTBALL BOOK
EXPANDED EDITION**
by the editors of 'Sports Illustrated'
Sports Illustrated, 320 pp., \$29.95

This almost 5-pound tome glorifying all things American professional football is a surefire winner when looking to buy a holiday gift for that picky pigskin-loving father/brother/boyfriend/husband on your shopping list. I tell my male friends in search of garnering brownie points with their lady friends that a flower arrangement is a 100% hands-down no-brainer: It's the gift that keeps giving throughout the week as she gazes lovingly into the flowers bestowed upon her by her suddenly romantic mate and shares with her friends and co-workers what a loving and thoughtful man she has taken off the market. Well, *Sports Illustrated: The Football Book Expanded Edition* is the male equivalent of fresh flowers.



There is not a single National Football League fanatic alive who will not be instantly smitten with this treasure trove of gorgeous photos and short but insightful essays by some of the best sportswriters in the field (George Plimpton, Peter King, and Dan Jenkins, to name a few). What initially catches the eye and dominates the book are the stunning photos. The sports world is a visual one, and the *SI* photographs collected here are extraordinary, even more so due to the large coffetable format. Particularly interesting are the pics chronicling the development in helmets and other equipment used throughout the decades. Fans will marvel at the flimsy nature of shoulder pads from years past and the evolution of the sport's uniquely shaped ball.

While sportswriting can often read like disposable wrap-ups of meaningless games or uninteresting columns on local teams, the *SI* writers gathered here take the short form to new heights. Of regional interest is Paul Zimmerman's remembrance of Dallas Cowboys head coach and man-among-men Tom Landry, he of the ever-present fedora. Other one-page wonders of note focus on the careers of Walter Payton, Barry Sanders,



T.O., Gene Upshaw, Joe Montana, Dick "Night Train" Lane, and John Elway, as well as players younger fans will be unfamiliar with such as Conrad Dobler, Don Hutson, and Alan Page. There are also combat stories relayed from the mouths of the league pioneers and short pieces on Lambeau Field, linebackers, and offensive linemen. Greats such as Johnny Unitas and Vince Lombardi merit additional space.

And there are (of course) lists. Sports fans can debate for hours on end the top passers, rushers, receivers, pass rushers, etc. of any given era and never

lose enthusiasm. The *SI* writers share their top position players to help get the debate going. Covering the last 55 years of *Sports Illustrated* football writing and photography with 85 pages of new material, 64 new photos, and an introduction from Austin Murphy missing from the previous edition, this book has surely earned a spot under your holiday tree.

— Mark Fagan

**THE WORLD IN VOGUE:
PEOPLE PARTIES PLACES**
edited by Hamish Bowles and Alexandra Kotur Knopf, 400 pp., \$75

In the spirit of unwitting perversity common in young girls, my favorite reading material

for midnight feasting was always my mother's copies of *Vogue* magazine. Plowing through *Monster Tacos* and french fries, I would arrive at the party pages to moon over sophisticated waifs with bold-type names. The exact length of Princess Diana's stride as she hurried toward her host, the tilt of Pat Buckley's head, the arrangements of giant peonies, all were washed down with Big Red, then fervently filed away for future reference.

The World in Vogue: People Parties Places — a retrospective boasting 400 color and black-and-white photos with accompanying text that have appeared in the magazine since the 1960s — is both time travel and history lesson. We've all seen pictures of Truman Capote's Black and White Ball, arguably the most notorious social event of the century, but seeing them here is like being that party's version of Cinderella at its famous midnight buffet.

Vogue has been lauded for pioneering fashion photography as a genre almost since Condé Nast acquired the magazine in 1909. Most of the commonly regarded pantheon of great photographers have shot for the magazine. Cecil Beaton, Richard Avedon, Alexander Liberman, Horst P. Horst, Irving Penn, Helmut Newton — all owe their legendary status to their body of work in *Vogue* and then beyond. Their work gathered here, shoulder to shoulder, is a stunning collage. Another longtime hallmark of *Vogue* coverage is the same upmarket-dish journalism, a cocktail of what was called a "think piece" and juicy, inside-the-bubble reporting, which would eventually make fellow Condé Nast title *Vanity Fair* the powerhouse monthly it is today. As a result, here we are not simply treated to the large glossies that made *Vogue* legendary but also to the articles by people such as Joan Juliet Buck on Paloma Picasso and Hamish Bowles on the Venice balls in 1999, as they were originally published.

Large retrospectives of venerable periodicals are commonplace but don't always deliver a true sense of the magazine. This effort, designed by Charles Churchward and groaning with 9½-inch-by-12½-inch images, is an experience that belongs under the tree for someone special this year. One consumer warning, however: If enjoyed late at night, you may experience cravings for fast food.

— Anne Harris

UNDER THE COVERS
For more gift ideas — how to pimp your Kindle, what Bartleby woulda worn if he'd preferred not to be a benchwarmer, etc. — visit the Books blog at austinchronicle.com/underthecovers.

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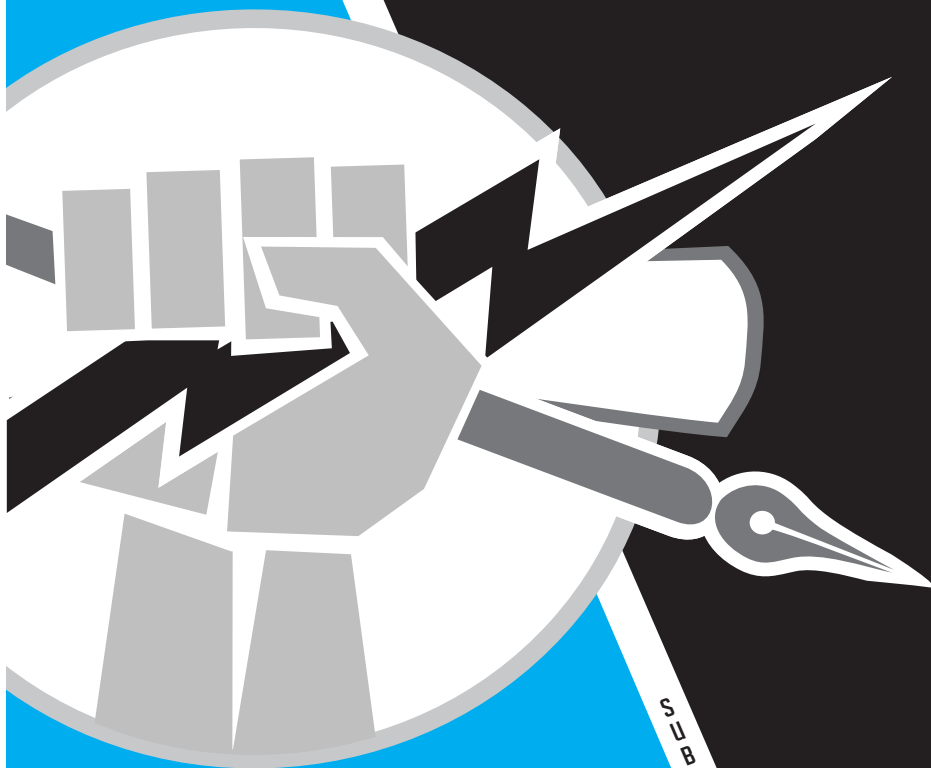
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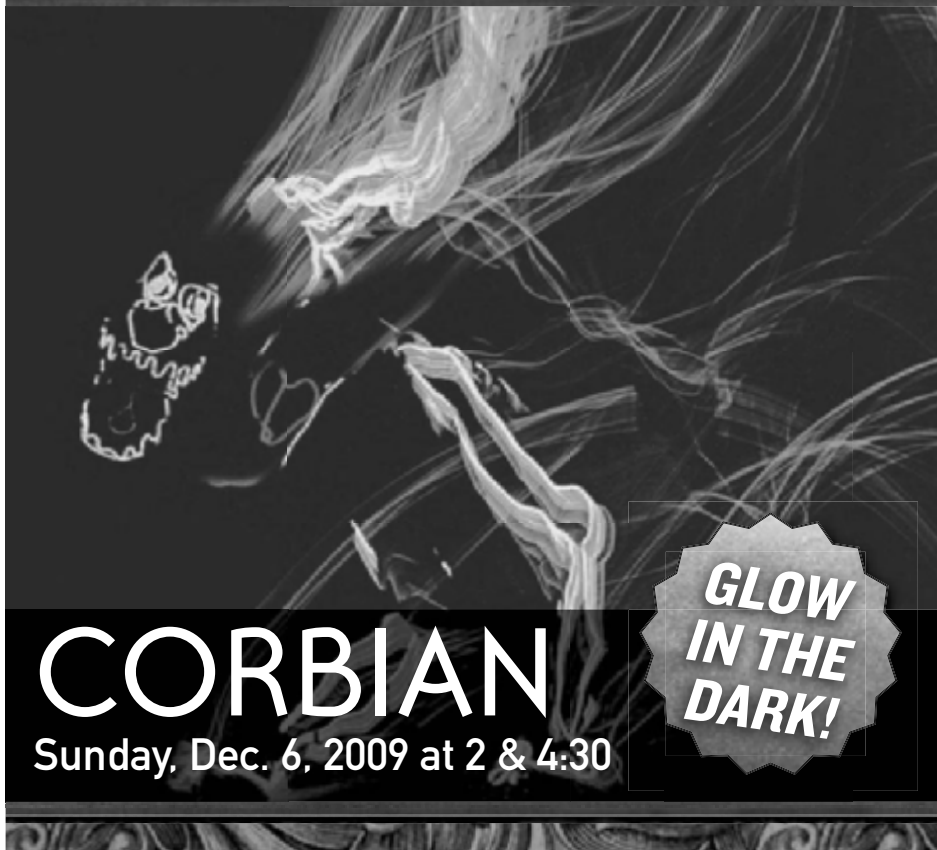


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after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

'TIS THE SEASON The holidays are here. I don't know *how*, but they're here. Snuck up on me this time ... though it's hard to say they could do that when I was well aware that the year was flying by at a record pace. They all seem to fly by now, don't they? We keep our lives so busy and full that a year seems more like a month, and a month seems like five minutes. But if you think about it that way, it's too easy to go into panic mode and think of all the things you haven't gotten done. Maybe that's why the holidays always seem so rushed — they signal the end of yet another year, and we haven't accomplished *half* of what we want to. So we go into overdrive, tying up loose ends, frazzled to the max, and we have to create **happy holidays** for ourselves and our loved ones — that means shopping endlessly and agonizing over whether you've purchased just the right thing for everyone in your family. And spend lots of money. And we're supposed to be cheery throughout all this? Fortunately it's the season for lots of cocktails. Cocktails when you get home, cocktails when you go out, cocktails when you're shopping. Everyone's hurting at least a little this season; not the least of whom are the retailers. So they

try to get us motivated with special trunk shows, presentations, and style shows ... and a cocktail or two. Cocktails are *great* when it's time to give money to someone else. There's hardly a nonprofit out there that doesn't hope that guests at their fundraiser get hammered and write a larger check than they meant to. So, naturally, this season, we find that guilt catches up with us and we give generously — maybe *too* generously for our bank accounts, but not for the nonprofit's account. Talk about someone who's hurting this year, and yet

Write to our Style Avatar with your related events, news, and hautey bits: style@austinchronicle.com or PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765 or 458-6910 (fax).

— many of the fundraisers I attended this year were the best ones yet, as far as money goes. Fortunately for them. We haven't been stingy, at least. While the world has seemingly hacked its budget in half, we still have to give, because we all know that we could be worse off than someone else. And we know if we're suffering, then they are, too. So forget about yourself this season and think of someone else who is not as fortunate as yourself; maybe even give a gift to charity in the name of the person you'd

usually buy a gift for. Remember, a purple cashmere twinset could buy a lot of meals or services for the truly needy.

DOMAIN-EERING February 2010 is the opening of the **Domain II**. You'd have to say that **Domain I** looks pretty successful, and Domain II will bring an even wider variety of shopping and services to Austin. With a three-level **Dillard's**, **Dick's Sporting Goods**, and a 340-room **Westin Hotel**, I suspect that the Domain will eventually become a private city all its own.

SHOP CHOP Saturday, Dec. 5, 8pm-12mid, the always worthy **Project Transitions** presents its 21st annual **Holiday Swing** at the **Dell Jewish Community Campus** (dance lessons at 7pm). For further info, go to www.projecttransitions.org... Enamelist and fashion designer **Leigh Elena Navarro** shows her exquisite enameled jewelry from 5 to 8pm, Tuesday, Dec. 8, at **Solid Gold Boutique and Day Spa** (www.solidgoldacademy.com). The El Paso native sells her **Leighelena** collection across the country, too. Bring a donation for **Toys for Tots** and receive a 20% discount. For a sneak peek, go to www.leighelena.com.



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'Beer Across Texas: A Guide to the Brews and Brewmasters of the Lone Star State'

by **Travis E. Poling** and **Paul W. Hightower**
Maverick, 80 pp., \$12.95 (paper)

The Texas craft-brewing scene has finally reached a benchmark: It's gotten big enough to have a book written about it. Now, the fact that the volume is only a slim 80 pages shows how far we still are behind the likes of California, Colorado, and Oregon, but nonetheless, we've arrived. *Beer Across Texas: A Guide to the Brews and Brewmasters of the Lone Star State* is exactly what the title says, with every brewer and brewpub in the state described, a breakdown of beer styles and which ones are made here, and a fascinating minihistory of Texas brewing going back to the days of the Republic.

The guide is the teamwork of **Travis E. Poling**, formerly a *San Antonio Express-News* reporter and now creator of a blog with the same name as the book (www.beeracrosstexas.com), and **Paul W. Hightower**, creator of the Texas Beer blog (www.texasbeer.blogspot.com). I met with Poling at the Draught House 41st anniversary party and squeezed in an interview between sips of some magnificent beers brought in for the event. — Lee Nichols

Austin Chronicle: What inspired you to do the book?

Travis E. Poling: Beer has been a passion of mine for many years, the tasting and enjoyment of it. And Paul Hightower, my co-author out of Fort Worth, and I were talking and found out both of us were working on books. They were similar in nature, but not exactly, so when I actually ended up almost by accident with a publisher interested in the book, I called him and said, "Hey, let's merge our ideas and join forces." And there's really not a comprehensive guide, in book form, of the Texas breweries that people can take and use as a guidebook or use as a reference for history. Somebody had to do it.

AC: You used to write for the *San Antonio Express-News*?

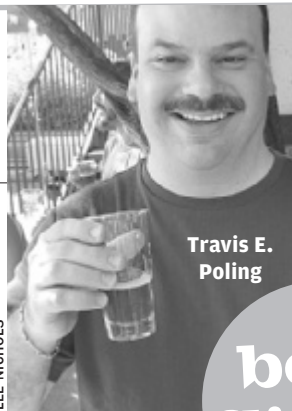
TP: I worked there for 13 years as a business reporter and beer writer, and I left in March to write about beer full time.

AC: How did you hook up with Paul?

TP: Paul and I met through [the] BeerAdvocate.com [forums], and I was traveling, covering a story in Fort Worth, and we got together with a bunch of beer enthusiasts from Dallas and Fort Worth, and we met at the original Flying Saucer in Fort Worth.

AC: Have you been to every brewery in the book?

TP: Between the two of us we have. I have never been to Lubbock in my life; not that I



Travis E. Poling

beer flights

would not like to visit sometime. Paul's been to Eola [a rural West Texas brewery in an abandoned schoolhouse near San Angelo that is now up for sale on eBay]. I was in Alpine, and unfortunately, Edelweiss was one we had to pull at the last minute, because it closed.

And we managed to squeeze Wimberley Brewing Co. in at the last minute, although they closed right after the book came out. But hopefully they'll reopen soon.

AC: What's your favorite brewery in Texas?

TP: I don't have a favorite brewery in Texas. Usually my favorite brewery is whichever one has a pint in my hand at the time.

Brew News

► **Black Star Co-op** has made the transition from neat idea to almost reality: It announced an actual brick-and-mortar location, in the Crestview Station Midtown Commons development that has sprung up on the site of the old Huntsman Chemical facility at North Lamar and Airport. It hosted a preview event Nov. 14, which unfortunately I couldn't attend, but look for more in these pages soon. I'm fired up about the location, as it's a short stumbling distance from my house. The co-op still needs more members/investors to make the dream come true; go to www.blackstar.coop for info on how to join.

► Speaking of making the dream come true, the new **Circle Brewing Co.** announced it has hit its first financial goal and placed an order for a 30-barrel brewhouse, which it expects to receive in about four months. Go to www.circlebrewing.com and click on "blog" to see what it will look like. The company is also still looking for more capital, so contact owners Ben T. Sabel and Judson K. Mulherin if you'd like to buy in. (I've sampled what Circle hopes to produce — you'll be investing in a quality product.)

► Texas medal winners in this September's 2009 **Great American Beer Festival** in Denver: **Hell in Keller** by Austin's **Uncle Billy's Brew & Que** (Gold in the Kellerbier/Zwickelbier category); Saint Arnold **Summer Pils** by Houston's **Saint Arnold Brewing Co.** (Gold in Munich-style helles); **Weizenbock** by Fort Worth's the **Covey Restaurant & Brewery** (Silver in German-style wheat ale); **"100"** by the Covey Restaurant & Brewery (Silver in Belgian-style strong specialty ale).

► It's lucky for Gov. **Rick Perry** that craft-beer lovers are a minority, because in gaining the endorsement of the **Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas**, he likely lost the vote of that demographic. WBTD is the lobbying organization that single-handedly killed off bills the past two legislative sessions that would have allowed microbrewers to sell their products on-premises, as Texas wineries can. I don't know who you should vote for in 2010, but if you support Texas' small breweries, then it damn sure ain't Rick Perry. — L.N.



Black Star Co-op board member Mark Wochner speaks at an opening event on Nov. 14.

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

I had a great time judging the **Holiday Baking Contest** out at **Faraday's Kitchen Store** (1501 RR 620 N. Ste. A, 266-5666, www.faradayskitchenstore.com) with store manager **Sharon O'Quinn** and Hudson's on the Bend pastry chef **Kelly Casey**. The quality and diversity of the entries was amazing, and the donated prizes were well-deserved. Check out the winning recipes on the store website. Congratulations to the winners: **Katy Franceschini** for her Bobby's Buttermilk Pie (Pies, Grand Prize), **Carrie Harris** for Great's Fruitcake (Cakes & Cupcakes), **Claudia Aechternacht** for buttery baked chipotle toffee (Miscellaneous), **Sherry Horan** for an elegant gingerbread house (Decorated Specialties), and **Linda Bishop** for chocolate panna cotta with port and balsamic glazed cherries (People's Choice). As impressed as I was with the winning entries, my favorite discovery was a cherry pie by Lakeway Elementary fifth-grader **Kendall Carlisle**. The talented 10-year-old prepared an exemplary rendition of a classic with a tender, buttery crust and a sweet-tart filling. If it had been completely done in the middle, the pie category I judged would have ended in a straight-up tie! That young lady is already quite a baker... The **Sustainable Food Center**, manager of the **Austin Farmers' Market** Downtown and at the Triangle, is soliciting recipes for an *Austin Farmers' Market Cookbook*. It's encouraging all growers, vendors, and shoppers to contribute recipes based on fresh, local ingredients available in the market, along with the story behind the recipe — the possibilities are endless. I'm thinking I'll give them an old chocolate coffee pie recipe with a new crust now made with caramelized cacao beans from **Kakawa Chocolates** or the instructions for **Top of Texas apples** dipped in caramel and chocolate. For info on submitting recipes, see www.austinfarmersmarketcookbook.com, or e-mail afmcookbook@gmail.com with questions or comments... The inaugural **Empty Bowl Project** preview party on Saturday night was well-attended, and I coveted more than a few of the lovely pottery items on the silent auction tables. My two favorite soups were a hearty posole blanco from **Corazon at Castle Hill** and an elegant Thai carrot soup with coconut milk from **STREAT**. The Mexican American Cultural Center overlooking Lady Bird Lake is a pleasant and accessible new home for the event. Official word from the **Capital Area Food Bank** is that 3,611 bowls were donated and nearly 2,000 people showed up on Sunday to eat soup and buy bowls to benefit CAFB's Kids Cafes... In that same spirit of giving, plenty of local restaurants and businesses are finding ways to lend a helping hand this holiday season, whether it's gathering Coats for Kids (**Lavaca Street Bar**), canned goods for CAFB (**Primrose Schools**, **Pei Wei**, **Chipotle**), cash and food contributions for Operation Turkey (**Greenling**), or feeding troops and their families at Fort Hood (**Z'Tejas Grill**). **Katz's** (618 W. Sixth, 472-2037, www.katzneverkloses.com) will donate 100% of the profits from its ever-popular Thanksgiving and Christmas Day feasts to Austin's **Center for Child Protection**. Happy Thanksgiving!

Event Menu Nov. 25–Dec. 3

► The whole family can work up an appetite for the holiday feast by running or walking in the 19th annual **ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot** that starts at Waterloo Park (12th & Trinity). Convenient parking in nearby state lots; proceeds benefit Caritas of Austin. Details, volunteer opportunities, and registration info at www.thundercloud.com. Thursday, Nov. 26, 9:30am.

► Chef Jason Donoho continues his chef's table series at **FINO** (2905 San Gabriel, 474-2905, www.astiaustin.com) with a multi-course **brewmaster's dinner** featuring the brews of Real Ale in Blanco, with brewmaster Tim Schwartz in attendance. \$85, reservations necessary. Tuesday, Dec. 2, 6:30pm.

► **Hosteria Verde Supper Club** and **Tipsy Texan** present three evenings of innovative events for **Flavors of Austin** to benefit the Sustainable Food Center at the Monarch (801 W. Fifth). Each night will offer differently themed entertainment, unique menus, and signature cocktails. \$45 per person nightly. For details, menus, and necessary reservations, go to www.hosteriaverde.com. Nov. 30–Dec. 2, 7-10pm.

► Cookbook authors **Matt** and **Ted Lee** will sign copies of their new book, *The Lee Bros.: Simple Fresh Southern: Knockout Dishes With Down-Home Flavor* (Clarkson Potter, \$35), at **BookPeople** (603 N. Lamar, www.bookpeople.com) on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7pm.

► Texas-based wine importer **Martin Ulisse Imports** brings Luigi Colapinto, owner and winemaker of **Terre Jovia Vineyards**, to Austin for a series of wine-pairing events. Enjoy a multicourse dinner with Terre Jovia wines at Botticelli's (1321 S. Congress, 916-1315, www.botticellisouthcongress.com). \$35, reservations necessary. Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7:30pm.

► Treat your taste buds to more than 45 examples of Michael Parker's stellar collection of Scotch whiskies at **Opal Divine's** seventh annual **Scotch Whisky Festival** at Opal's Penn Field (3601 S. Congress, 707-0237). An appetizer buffet will be served; proceeds benefit Meals on Wheels & More. Tickets are \$40 in advance (www.opaldivines.com) and \$45 at the door. Thursday, Dec. 3, 7-10pm. — V.B.W.



Crackdown

If local eggs are outlawed, will only outlaws have eggs?

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

In his nearly 20 years in business, Kim Alexander, owner of Alexander Family Farm, just east of the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, has never had a food-safety issue related to any of the food raised on his farm. The Alexander family raises pastured chickens, turkeys, cattle, hogs, grain, and vegetables, which they sell to a loyal following of customers.

Inspired by sustainable agriculture advocate Joel Salatin of Polyface farm in Virginia, Alexander utilizes organic and sustainable practices on his farm but declines to have his property certified organic because he doesn't want the government or any other agency involved in his business. He's a hardworking, self-reliant Christian man who chooses to homeschool his children and make his own ethanol to run the farm machinery.

Alexander's clean, efficient operation earns him the respect of his neighbors and other area farmers, and his poultry-processing practices are often used as a model to train area 4-H students. He's a man who lives and works by his principles – one of his most cherished is his resistance to government involvement in his life or his business. While his moral opposition often inspires the admiration of other small farmers who feel overburdened by government regulations, his maverick stance tends to put him at odds with regulatory agencies, as in his recent egg fight with the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department.

Kim Alexander's fresh-egg operation consists of about 1,500 laying hens that produce an aver-

age of 65 to 70 dozen eggs a day. The eggs are carefully washed and checked for soundness (no cracks) before being packed in cardboard flats and refrigerated at 45 degrees. The eggs are checked again before the flats are packed in dated cardboard cartons and delivered to town in a refrigerated truck twice a week. The eggs travel a relatively short distance from the farm to the consumer and are always sold within a few days of being laid. Alexander Family Farm eggs are a prime example of what Travis County's current farm-to-table locavore movement is all about – getting fresh, nutritious, local food to the consumer in a timely manner. By virtue of the size of his flock (less than 3,000 hens), Alexander is not required by state law to have an egg producer's license and his eggs are not graded ("candled" to determine their freshness – more on this later). "Factory farm eggs are graded so they can still sell them after they've been in cold storage for months at a time," Alexander claims. He staunchly maintains that government licensing and grading would not improve the quality of his eggs or offer consumers any significant protections they don't already have. And that's where Alexander's trouble started last spring.

The 2009 Egg Hunt

One Sunday in April, Olivia restaurant owner and chef James Holmes created a remarkable farm-to-table brunch with beef and pork from Richardson Farms, northeast of Austin, and heirloom tomatoes and other produce from Boggy Creek Farm in East Austin. However, the

main topic of conversation at our table that day was the absence of Alexander Family Farm eggs on our plates, considering they were known to be one of chef Holmes' favorite local ingredients. Holmes said that an inspector from the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department had informed him he could no longer feature Alexander Family Farm eggs on his menu because they were ungraded. Holmes said the inspector could not cite any specific food-safety issue regarding ungraded eggs, but he was adamant they be removed immediately from the Olivia kitchen. "Kim is one of our favorite purveyors, and I hated losing his eggs – we used them in our brunch dishes, the pastas, the desserts. This is such a big loss," Holmes said in obvious distress. The farmers with whom I was dining were very concerned about what they perceived as increased government regulation of already struggling small family farms.

Within a matter of days after that spring brunch, several chefs and food business owners related similar stories – they were being told by their regular health inspectors they could no longer sell or cook with ungraded eggs from any source, but the main supplier in most of these circumstances was

Alexander Family Farm. None of these businesses had ever experienced any food-safety issues related to their use or sale of ungraded eggs; in fact, some local stores had sold ungraded eggs from a variety of local sources for years without incident or any mention of regulations prohibiting their sale.

The egg controversy raged through the late spring and early summer, with Health Department officials on one side, small egg producers on the other, and businesses trying to support local agriculture caught in the middle. The issue came to a head in July when Health Department officials and Kim Alexander made presentations to Austin's new Sustainable Food Policy Board.

The Health Department representatives explained the recent enforcement of a portion of the Austin City Code (adopted from state law in 1998) that states "shell eggs shall be received clean and sound and may not exceed the restricted tolerances for U.S. Consumer Grade B." Alexander made the case that egg grading is an unnecessary expense and regulatory burden on small producers and offers consumers of locally produced eggs no food-safety protection at all. The 13-member board took the matter under advisement and will likely issue a statement of its findings on the issue, but does not at this time plan to recommend any action to the City Council.

Making the Grade

So just what was this regulation that was disrupting well-established local farm-to-table connections, and just what

food-safety protections does egg grading offer the public? Bouncing from agency to agency in search of the answers to those questions had me feeling like the egg in a proverbial game of egg toss. Austin/Travis County Consumer Health Supervisor Vince Delisi could quote me chapter and verse about the Austin City Code reg-

ulation covering shell eggs, but he could not identify a single specific food-safety issue that prompted the recent enforcement of egg grading regulations that had been on the books for years. "We discovered ungraded eggs in a hotel kitchen in North Austin last spring and then made our inspectors aware of the regulations in one of our daily morning briefings," Delisi recalled when we spoke in June. Queried about what egg grading actually is and what protection it offers consumers, he replied: "What I can tell you is that it is the law – we can't just pick and choose which laws to enforce. We don't have jurisdiction over egg producers, but we do have jurisdiction over

CONTINUED ON P.54

"Kim is one of our favorite purveyors, and I hated losing his eggs – we used them in our brunch dishes, the pastas, the desserts. This is such a big loss!"
– James Holmes, Olivia



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food service establishments.” For more information on egg grading, Delisi referred me to the Texas Department of Agriculture, where the egg grading regulations adopted into the City Code had originated.

When I approached TDA’s public information office for clarification on egg grading regulations, I was initially tossed to the Texas Department of State Health Services, which tossed me right back to TDA. Eventually, Bryan Black, TDA’s assistant commissioner for communications, provided me with a clear explanation of the regulations and gave me contact information to reach an egg grading professional. The Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 15, Egg Law basically states that egg producers must be licensed and must grade eggs if they provide eggs for resale to food service establishments, restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, or food-manufacturing businesses.

An exemption exists that lets small producers (less than 3,000 hens) sell ungraded eggs directly to the consumer from their farms or at farmers’ markets as long as they label eggs as “ungraded”; include the producer’s name, address, and packing date in the packaging; and adhere to temperature storage requirements. These state regulations have been adopted into the city codes of various Texas cities, and their local health departments have the authority to enforce them. Anecdotal information suggests that, at least in Austin, enforcement of the regulations has closely followed the rise of the local farm-to-table movement.

One Size Fits All

That left me with one question down and one to go – just how does the public benefit from egg grading? Everyone I spoke to – from

chefs and grocery store managers to government bureaucrats – offered a somewhat different explanation, and none of them was particularly satisfactory. I finally had a conversation with an egg grading professional from the U.S. Department of Agriculture who helped me make sense of the issue. Justin Keeley is the federal/state supervisor for the USDA’s poultry programs for Texas and Oklahoma. He works out of an office in Buda, and one of his jobs is providing egg grading services to large factory farm operations that produce millions of eggs every year.



Pastured birds at Alexander Family Farm

JOHN ANDERSON

Keeley explained that USDA poultry quality procedures were developed at a time when American agriculture was moving away from small family farms to a large-scale agribusiness model. “During the early days of World War II, there was concern that American troops should receive only quality food products, and the rules and regulations about egg grading [and other quality measures] evolved from that,” he reports. Egg grading encompasses determination of the following: size (extra large, large, medium, small), soundness (no cracks or bacterial growth), and quality (the freshness of the egg is assessed by candling, or

exposure to light, to reveal the size of the air cell inside the shell – the smaller the air cell, the fresher the egg). Top quality factory farm eggs are graded USDA Grade A.

According to Keeley, the big factory farm operations producing millions of eggs every year pay for grading services because major food service providers such as the military, giant grocery wholesalers (Sysco, U.S. Foodservice) and retailers (Wal-Mart, H-E-B), and major food manufacturers (Nabisco, General Mills) contract for certain levels of quality. Because of such large-scale produc-

Kim Alexander remains resistant to licensing and egg grading. He maintains that enforcing regulations developed for factory farms on small producers is an unnecessary and intrusive government burden and offers no food-safety protection to consumers.

Jeremiah Cunningham of Manor, who provides local eggs to Whole Foods Market, immediately began grading their eggs in response to enforcement of the Austin City Code regulations. “Initially, the fact that the eggs we purchased from Jeremiah were ungraded was an oversight on our part,” says Whole Foods Community Relations Coordinator Elizabeth Smith. “Once we became aware that eggs must be graded, the issue was resolved, and the eggs are now graded.”

Kim Alexander, however, remains resistant to licensing and egg grading. He maintains his position that enforcing regulations developed for factory farms on small producers is an unnecessary and intrusive government burden and offers no food-safety protection to consumers. “The eggs I was selling to restaurants and stores are the very same ones that are safe enough for me to sell here at the farm,” he asserts. “But we’re producing way too many eggs for me to sell them all directly from the farm, and if I take them to the farmers’ market, my price would undercut most of the farmers who sell along with their vegetables or meat or whatever, and that

wouldn’t be fair to them.” At this point, it looks as though his only remedies would be an unlikely directive from the City Council to the Health Department to suspend enforcement of the graded egg regulations or legislation amending the state law to allow small egg producers to sell ungraded eggs for resale. While his stance on the egg grading issue earns him the respect of his fellow farmers, it appears unlikely that Alexander will win this battle. He remains philosophical about the outcome, however, saying, “I learned a long time ago not to rely on the government to solve my problems.”

factory farm eggs can be kept in cold storage for weeks and months at a time and often travel long distances to their final consumer destination. In addition to the “sell by” date producers are required to put on egg cartons, grading provides a level of quality assurance to the major market consumer. The commercial situations Keeley described sounded pretty far removed from the farm-to-table-within-a-week experience of Alexander Farm eggs. “Small producers can grade their own eggs. There is even a machine they can use to make it fairly fast and easy,” Keeley says. In fact, some small area producers such as

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NORTH

CAJUN/CREOLE: PAPPADAEUX SEAFOOD KITCHEN Items here include po'boys, dinner plates, and combos with shrimp, oysters, and crab. Order the fish fried, blackened, or charbroiled, with a variety of side dishes. **6319 N. I-35, 452-9363. www.pappadeaux.com. \$\$\$**

CHINESE: FIRST CHINESE BBQ The style of cooking is Cantonese, the interior is bright and clean, and the portions are generous. Look for a wide diversity of ingredients and delicious vegetarian options. **10901 N. Lamar #401, 835-8889. www.firstchinesebbq.com. \$**

INDIAN: CURRY IN HURRY The authentic North Indian vegetarian menu here changes every day. Order an entrée and a side at the counter, and one minute later, it arrives with rice and roti or *paratha* alongside. Snacks, *chaat*, and sweets on weekends. **2121 W. Parmer #114, 821-0000. www.gandhibazar.com/curryinhurry.html. \$**

ITALIAN, PIZZA: BARIS PASTA & PIZZA Your basic family-style Italian restaurant, where the portions are large, the prices ridiculously low, and the quality is fine. **1501 W. Pecan St., Pflugerville, 989-8900. www.barispizzaandpasta.com. \$\$\$**

ITALIAN: CIOLA'S ITALIAN-AMERICAN RESTAURANT The sister restaurant of the Virginia-based original pleases lake dwellers and Hill Country denizens with traditional Italian-American recipes. **1310 Hwy. 620 S., 263-9936. www.ciolas.com. \$\$\$**

JAPANESE: BELUGA JAPANESE RESTAURANT This place offers a wide variety of fresh, affordable sushi and tempura. Try the Ahi Tower. **661 Louis Henna Blvd. #300, Round Rock, 255-6454. www.belugasushi.net. \$\$\$**

PAN-ASIAN: BO ASIAN BISTRO The cuisines of Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, and Malaysia are represented in a serene, no-frills setting. **2711 La Frontera Blvd. #260, Round Rock, 388-6002. www.boasianbistro.com. \$\$\$**

PERSIAN: SHANDEEZ GRILL The menu here contains many wonders of the East, including *baghali-polo* with lamb shanks; *khorest ghemeh*, a beef stew served with basmati rice; and *koobideh kabob*. Don't forget to try the Persian ice cream, flavored with rosewater. **8863 Anderson Mill Rd. #109, 258-6464. www.shandeez.com. \$\$\$**

PIZZA: PIZZERIA CORVINA The pizzas are fired in a coal-burning oven at 800 degrees and achieve an "eggshell outer crust." All of the sauces and doughs are made fresh daily. **3107 I-35 S. #840, Round Rock, 310-COAL. www.pizzeriacorvina.com. \$\$\$**

PIZZA: REDBRICK PIZZA Clocking in at a blistering 1000 degrees, the pizza oven here cranks out wood-fired pies in no time. **10515 N. MoPac Ste. 125-B, 345-6060. www.redbrickpizza.com. \$\$\$**

SEAFOOD: PACIFIC STAR RESTAURANT & OYSTER BAR An even mix of fried vs. broiled and a large palette of choices and combos. The perfect spot for seafood with a slightly Cajun tang. **13507 Hwy. 183 N., 219-5373. www.pacificstarfood.com. \$\$\$**

VIETNAMESE: HUONG GIANG Featuring the cuisine of central Vietnam, Huong Giang has great selections of appetizers, soups, noodles, and rice plates. **9200 N. Lamar, 834-1736. \$\$\$**

NORTH CENTRAL

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: QUACK'S 43RD STREET BAKERY Carrying on the tradition of slacker-era Austin, Quack's is a great place to luxuriate over coffee and a muffin. **411 E. 43rd, 453-3399. www.quackquacks.com. \$**

BARBECUE: POK-E-JO'S SMOKEHOUSE The central location has great grub for game day. Don't miss the desserts. **1000 E. 41st, 302-1200. www.pokejos.com. \$**

BURGER JOINT, TEX-MEX: JALAPENO JOES Present yourself at the window, and order an Angus beef burger or the pile of Tex-Mex sustenance known as the Alonzo Platter, but save room for Ernest's Enchiladas. **4905 Airport, 451-3326. www.jalapenojoes.com. \$**

CHINESE, JAPANESE: PEI WEI ASIAN DINER A sleek diner atmosphere and affordable favorites keep us coming back for lunch and dinner. Choose your own combinations for noodle and rice bowls. **1000 E. 41st, 382-3860. www.peiwei.com. \$**

CHINESE: SHANGHAI RESTAURANT The 168-item menu contains enough choices to satisfy any craving, from the usual favorites to exotic Cantonese offerings. Dim sum cart service on weekends. **6718 Middle Fiskville, 458-8088. \$\$\$**

MIDDLE EASTERN: PHARA'S MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE & CHRISTOPHER'S CASBAH Housed in Ararat's former location, Phara's offers several vegetarian options as well as salmon and lamb surprises. **111 E. North Loop, 632-7067. www.pharas.com. \$\$\$**

SEAFOOD: CAPT. BENNY'S SEAFOOD A full range of both fried and broiled seafood, in the boat formerly occupied by the Captain's Seafood & Oyster Bar. **5700 N. I-35, 452-1417. www.captbennys.com. \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: JULIO'S CAFE The vegetarian taco with perfectly grilled zucchini and summer squash is a favorite, along with the enchiladas, chalupas, and fajitas. If you're up early, hearty breakfast tacos are available. **4230 Duval St., 452-1040. www.juliosaustin.com. \$**

TEX-MEX: TAMALE HOUSE An Airport Boulevard institution, T-House offers authentic, no-frills Tex-Mex. Pull up a chair on the sunbaked concrete and forget about tamales; they are not on the menu. **5003 Airport, 453-9842. www.myspace.com/tamalehouse. \$**

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN A welcoming vegetarian refuge since 1979, the meatless menu is a mix of Southern and Tex-Mex and includes a selection of soups, salads, and heartier fare. **4215 Duval St., 451-3994. www.motherscafeandgarden.com. \$\$\$**

UT

AMERICAN CAFE: SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR & CAFE This cozy old North Campus bungalow provides coffees, juice, and a full bar as well as a small, eclectic, vegetarian-friendly menu in a comfortably shabby atmosphere. **2908 Fruth, 480-9562. www.spiderhousecafe.com. \$**

CHINESE: SUN HING Kung pao, General Tso, and other American-Chinese standards are served up inexpensively. **2801 Guadalupe, 478-6504. \$\$\$**

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: POTBELLY SANDWICH WORKS If you're still hungry after an orange DreamSickle Smoothie, try one of the dozen or so sandwich options. You really can't beat a fresh lunch option for less than \$10. **2316 Guadalupe, 477-0300. www.potbelly.com. \$**

JAPANESE: SUSHI NIICHI EXPRESS This no-frills sushi spot will satisfy your wasabi cravings. Be sure to stop next door for bubble tea at Momoko. **705-B W. 24th, 469-0499. www.sushiniichi.com. \$\$\$**

MIDDLE EASTERN: KISMET CAFE serves Mediterranean-American cuisine, Philly subs, gyros, and salads. **411 W. 24th, 236-1811. www.kismetcafe.net. \$\$\$**

PIZZA: DOUBLEDAVE'S PIZZAWORKS Shoot pool, enjoy good beer specials, and stuff yourself with the campus area's greasiest and most satisfying indulgence: DoubleDave's Pepperoni Rolls. **3000 Duval St., 476-3283. www.doubledaves.com. \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: EL PATIO These friendly folks have been serving up moderately priced Tex-Mex food with salsa and salsitas since 1954. **2938 Guadalupe, 476-5955. \$\$\$**

THAI: THAI KITCHEN The Drag location of this respected local Thai restaurant chain is popular with student diners, and the authentic food is fresh, spicy, and affordable. **3009 Guadalupe, 474-2575. www.thaikitchenofaustin.com. \$\$\$**

VIETNAMESE: PHO THAISON is your headquarters for pho, but it also has a great selection of appetizers and vegetarian dishes. **1908 Guadalupe, 482-0146. www.phothaison.com. \$\$\$**

DOWNTOWN

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CAJUN/CREOLE: THE BOILING POT Fresh, boiled seafood of every variety: shrimp, blue crabs, crawfish (in season), boudin, gumbo, and red beans and rice, as well as oysters on the half shell. **700 E. Sixth, 472-0985. www.theboilingpotonline.com. \$\$\$**

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: KT'S DELI On the ground floor of the William P. Clements Jr. Building, this cafeteria-style eatery boasts good food and low prices. Open for breakfast and lunch. You can pretend you're a state employee like so many of the other diners. **300 W. 15th, 495-9313. \$**

FINE DINING, STEAK HOUSE: III FORKS A great sommelier, traditional luxury, and prime aged beef keep the crowd coming back. Enormous wedge salads and terrific steak-house sides tempt newcomers. **111 Lavaca, 474-1776. www.iiiforks.com. \$\$\$\$**

INTERIOR MEXICAN: LA CONDESA Chef Rene Ortiz and pastry chef Laura Sawicki whip up neo-Mexican cuisine at this stunning newcomer that sets a new standard for local dining. **400-A W. Second, 499-0300. www.lacondesaustin.com. \$\$\$**

JAPANESE: KYOTO This elder statesman of Japanese restaurants offers scrumptious sushi and other Asian fare. Nonsushi items cover the basics in Japanese cuisine, but don't expect surprises. **315 Congress #200, 482-9010. www.kyotodowntown.com. \$\$\$\$**

MEDITERRANEAN: ATHENIAN BAR & GRILL You'll find terrific traditional Greek cuisine at this long-time local favorite. Enjoy live Greek music on Friday and Saturday evenings. **600 Congress, 474-7775. www.athenianbargrill.com. \$\$\$**

SEAFOOD, STEAK HOUSE: TRULUCK'S The noise level and the prices are both steep here, but you'll enjoy aged beef, fresh seafood, and great salads in an elegant steak-house setting. **400 Colorado, 482-9000. www.trulucks.com. \$\$\$**

EAST

AMERICAN CAFE: ARKIE'S GRILL This cafe has been around since 1948, maintaining the same homestyle menus and hospitable spirit. Thursday's turkey-and-dressing special is highly recommended. **4827 E. Cesar Chavez, 385-2986. \$**

AMERICAN CAFE: STAR SEEDS CAFE This institution has been around since the Armadillo days, when hungry cosmic cowboys restored themselves at its booths. Find breakfast selections galore. **3101 N. I-35, 478-7107. www.starseedscfe.com. \$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: CAFE MUNDI This Eastside boho combo coffeehouse/art space/gift shop serves up sandwiches, salads, and muffins, plus waffles on weekends! **1704 E. Fifth, 236-8634. www.myspace.com/cafemundi. \$**

BARBECUE: SAM'S BBQ Late-night hours make this spot popular with musicians, but the great barbecue keeps folks of every occupation coming back every time of day or night. **2000 E. 12th, 478-0378. \$**

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: RIO RITA Go during the day for sandwiches, empanadas, East Side Pies slices, and a full complement of your day's veggies in the Bloody Mary, this year's "Best of Austin" Critics Pick. **1308 E. Sixth, 524-0384. www.riorita.net. \$**

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: EL CHILE CAFE Y CANTINA The bill of fare features some Tex-Mex dishes, several interior specialties, and a number of good vegetarian options. **1809 Manor Rd., 457-9900. www.elchilecafe.com. \$\$\$**

ITALIAN: PRIMIZIE OSTERIA The menu features fresh and seasonal ingredients that are the basis for the three "P's" of Italian cuisine: pasta, pizza, and panini. The sleek dining room provides a casual and sophisticated ambience. **1000 E. 11th #150, 236-0088. www.primizieaustin.com. \$\$\$**

SOUTH AMERICAN: EL ZUNZAL RESTAURANT A cozy, comfortable place serving Mexican and Salvadoran specialties. We recommend the *arroz con albondigas*, the *mariscadas*, and the *pupusas*. **642 Calles, 474-7749. www.enaustin.com/zunzal.html. \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: DARIO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Try the fajita omelet with grilled peppers, onions, potatoes, and beans, but don't overlook the rest of the menu, such as the fabulous enchiladas. *¡Que rico!* **1800 E. Sixth, 479-8105. www.enaustin.com/Darios/darios.html. \$\$\$**

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: MR. NATURAL A juice bar, bakery, health-food store, and vegetarian Mexican restaurant in one: your one-stop shop for soybean ceviche, pineapple empanadas, and queen bee royal jelly. **1901 E. Cesar Chavez, 477-5228. www.mrnatural-austin.com. \$**

WINE BAR: UNCORKED Gorgeous views of Downtown, a nicely chosen wine list, lots of wines by the glass, and an inventive kitchen staff creating delicious food. **900 E. Seventh, 524-2809. www.uncorkedtastingroom.com. \$\$\$**

LAKE

BARBECUE: SMOKY J'S BAR-B-Q is a definitive Texas barbecue joint with a smoking pit out back, window service, and picnic tables. Meat is available by the sandwich, the plate, or the pound, and it's still BYOB. **7008 RR 620 N., 331-4888. \$**

CHINESE: PAO'S MANDARIN HOUSE One of the few Asian places in the Lakeway area, this Chinese restaurant offers daily lunch and dinner specials as well as delivery. **2300 Lohmans Spur #134, Lakeway, 263-8869. \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: GUADALAJARA RESTAURANT & CANTINA Hearty dishes from Northern Mexico alongside Tex-Mex standards are what you'll find here. The service is friendly, and the bar is stocked with a wide selection of tequilas and Mexican beers. **1525 Cypress Creek, Cedar Park, 219-5244. \$\$\$**

SOUTH

AMERICAN CAFE: MAGNOLIA CAFE SOUTH This second location packs 'em in at all hours like the original, but especially at mealtimes, if the lines at lunch are any indication. **1920 S. Congress, 445-0000. www.themagnoliacafe.com. \$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: LUX BAKERY & CAFE Perfect for coffee and pastries – so affordable for lunch, and a pleasant afternoon retreat where the bubble teas are refreshing, the sweets are satisfying, and the wi-fi is free. **3601 W. William Cannon #175, 891-9850. www.luxbakeryandcafe.com. \$**

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DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: SCHLOTZSKY'S BAKERY & COFFEEHOUSE This Texas chain has been baking its own bread and cranking out sandwiches for decades. There have been many posers since, but no one has come close to the original. **218 S. Lamar, 476-2867. www.schlotzskys.com. \$**

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: VESPAIO A comfy bar, great service, and a dazzling display of anti-pasti near the front door lure us in, and the pasta and heirloom tomatoes do the rest. **1610 S. Congress, 441-6100. www.austinesvespaio.com. \$\$\$**

INTERIOR MEXICAN: LA TERRAZA Offers standard Mexican fare served in a comfortable, clean atmosphere. Cold beer and cheap margaritas, with live mariachi twice a week. **1605 E. Oltorf, 444-0018. \$\$\$**

ITALIAN: TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL offers a reasonably priced Italian menu and a large wine list. Try the crab cannelloni, definitive spaghetti and meatballs, and the intense desserts. **2201 College Ave., 443-4200. www.treehousegrill.com. \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: LA FERIA RESTAURANT This boisterous hot spot offers free tea with the lunch specials. We suggest the burritos. Live mariachi on Thursdays. **2010 S. Lamar, 326-8301. www.laferiaaustin.com. \$\$\$**

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: CASA DE LUZ Follow the walkway through herbs and flowers to the inviting, airy dining room for food that is organic, in season, vegan, and all-natural. **1701 Toomey, 476-2535. www.casadeluz.org. \$\$\$**

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE: KERBEY LANE CAFE Quint West Austin cottages give this original location the old-Austin charm of a well-loved institution. Those big salads are grown just for you on its own 30-acre farm. **3704 Kerbey, 451-1436. www.kerbeylanecafe.com. \$\$\$**

BARBECUE: GREEN MESQUITE Check out the Oak Hill outpost of this South Austin favorite. Exceptional barbecue at both locations. **7010 Hwy. 71 W., Oak Hill, 288-8300. www.greenmesquite.net. \$\$\$**

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: NAU'S ENFIELD DRUG Venerable, iconic, drugstore-counter grill serving burgers, eggs over easy, grilled-cheese sandwiches, and the milkshakes of your dreams. **1115 West Lynn, 476-FOOD. www.naus-enfield-drug.com/grill.html. \$**

ROMANIAN: DRAKULA ROMANIAN RESTAURANT Discover a few of Romania's favorites such as *mititei*: skewered, sliced beef and pork. We also like the stuffed cabbage, stuffed peppers, and Friday fish dishes. Don't miss the home-made pickled-vegetable platter. **8120 Research Ste. 104-B, 374-9291. www.drakularestaurant.com. \$\$\$**

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: THREADGILL'S OLD NO. 1 Fried-catfish dinners at Threadgill's have been a popular menu item as long as the restaurants have been open in Austin. **6416 N. Lamar, 451-5440. www.threadgills.com. \$\$\$**

TAKEOUT: SASHA'S RUSSIAN MARKET This grocery and deli offers a selection of blintzes, fresh-smoked and marinated fish, caviar, top-quality meats, and Russian breads. The daily lunch specials ensure a surprise treat for every visit. **7817 Rockwood #102, 459-1449. \$**

TEX-MEX: EL NUEVO MEXICO TEX-MEX Friendly service, generous portions at affordable prices, and solid renditions of traditional Tex-Mex favorites are sure to make this place a hit. **911 W. Anderson, 458-5454. \$**

TEX-MEX: LA CASITA MEXICAN FOOD Don't let the modest exterior fool you. The food exceeds expectations with great value for your money, superior quality, and culinary know-how. **1519 W. Anderson, 469-0105. www.lacasitax.com. \$**

TEX-MEX: TRUDY'S NORTH STAR Find some of the best burgers and Tex-Mex in town, but it is the splendid margaritas and Mexican martinis that keep us going during the occasional long wait. **8820 Burnet Rd., 454-1474. www.trudys.com. \$\$\$**

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screens

BORN DIGITAL, BUT THEN WHAT?

UT professor Craig Watkins on the migratory patterns of the Internet's first flock

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

It's no accident that the title of Craig Watkins' new book, *The Young and the Digital*, is an oblique reference to a daytime soap opera. His book is a scholarly examination of how young people use social media and technology, with all the facts and figures a scholarly examination requires. But when it comes right down to it, the book exists because Watkins had a story to tell. And as it turns out, the primacy of story — how humans want and need to tell stories — is as much a part of his findings as the data he has analyzed.

"For me, stories are at the center of what young people are attracted to," Watkins said in an interview at his office at the University of Texas at Austin, where he is an associate professor in the Radio-Television-Film Department. *The Young and the Digital: What the Migration to Social-Network Sites, Games, and Anytime, Anywhere Media Means for Our Future* is his third book focusing on youth culture (his earlier titles include 1998's *Representing: Hip Hop Culture and the Production of Black Cinema* and 2005's *Hip Hop Matters: Politics, Pop Culture, and the Struggle for the Soul of a Movement*). Published in October of this year, *The Young and the Digital* examines how teens through twenty-

some things use technology, specifically social media like Facebook, MySpace, online games, and texting. "Much has been talked about and written about the technology revolution," Watkins said, "but what is really revolutionary are the ways that young people are choosing to tell their stories, or life sharing."

The Young and the Digital is the result of research started in 2006 when Watkins was invited to join the MacArthur Foundation's digital media and learning initiative. The collection of scholars, visionaries, and other leaders from around the world were asked to "explore the intersection of digital media, everyday life, and learning." For his project,

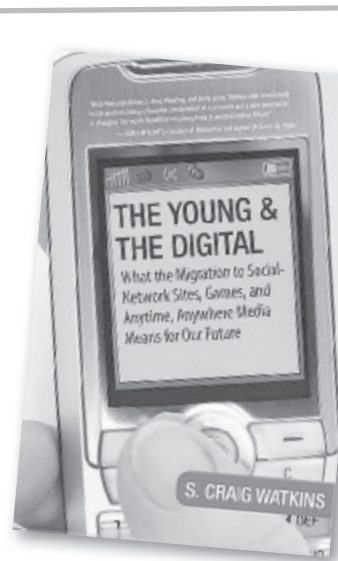
Craig Watkins will speak about his book at the Austin Forum on Science, Technology & Society on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 6:30pm at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center auditorium at 1900 University Ave. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.austinforum.org.

Watkins collected more than 500 surveys and 350 in-depth interviews with young people, parents, and educators to assess the use and impact of social media on the first generation of digital natives — those who have always had technology in their lives.

There's a long history of hesitancy in popular culture regarding digital innovation, running from concern to outright fear of the soulless machine overtaking the heart of man. While that's mostly the stuff of science fiction, panic still rises to the top from time to time and especially in this moment of rapid media and technological change.

"I think for a while there, there was a sense of hysteria and paranoia about how technology was making us less social and that face-to-face interactions were diminished," Watkins said, referring to Robert Putnam's *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. In short, Putnam argued that increasingly media-rich homes were eroding participation in public life.

"A great irony of life on the computer screen," Watkins writes in his introduction, "is the fact that we usually go online alone but often with the intent of communicating with other people. Among the teens and young adults that we talk to, time spent in front of a computer screen is rarely, if ever, considered time spent alone." Social media, Watkins asserts, is an interim mode of communication and a means to coordinate future face-to-face interactions, not a substitute for human interaction, as was argued in the past.



Craig Watkins

"I came away with a different question," he said. "I would perhaps argue that we are excessively social." Because of the ability to always "be on," Watkins considers what the repercussions are when attention is constantly shared (i.e. multitasking). How does it affect learning? How does it affect engagement? How, he wonders, will the first generation of digital natives' use of technology change when they enter the work force and start their careers?

Though Watkins offers plenty of dry data in his book, his overall writing style is conversational and thankfully void of academic jargon. It's wonky stuff, sure, but *The Young and the Digital* is remarkably readable. Maybe even more remarkable is what a focused account Watkins has produced about a media climate that is still in flux, in which he ponders questions that may not be answered until this moment in media history has long passed. ■

THE BALANCING ACT OF BEING IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE

'I'll Come Running' director Spencer Parsons on his states of mind

sional *Chronicle* contributor) — found himself turning in his Texas citizenship papers.

Well, sort of. He continues to juggle a number of collaborations with Austin filmmakers — "I live on Skype quite a bit these days," Parsons says via phone from his office at Northwestern — and he also shot a short in Austin last summer.

"In a weird way I feel like, living in Chicago, I can now afford to be an Austin filmmaker," he says. "I was never able to make quite enough money in Austin to fully support myself without going farther down the hole."

And now his work is suddenly accessible to a wide audience via the IFC deal. It's an odd time to be an independent filmmaker in America, with video on demand and the Internet making one's work more available to the masses. Meanwhile, the possibility of a traditional theatrical run has mostly dried up.

"Frankly, I don't want to say this, because I think it's too bad for independent voices, but maybe the theatrical experi-

ence is going to be a Hollywood-on-one-end and microcinema-on-the-other-end *only* kind of experience. I don't think it's that bad [yet]. ... But the economic possibilities, the economic streams for different kinds of movies in the world — you have to ask what's sustainable and what can be supported."

Parsons sees the brightest future for independent films in grassroots traveling shows, like the Range Life Entertainment tour, which stopped in Austin last week. "I feel like the tour model is maybe the way that independent filmmakers can pivot in a punk-rock way

into, you know, going out to the audience a little bit more."

Parsons is currently planning a winter tour of *I'll Come Running*, including a stop in Austin. And, of course, there are all the other balls in the air. "I'm still backlogged with projects that I think of really seriously as Austin-based," says Parsons. "So whether people like it or not, I'll probably be back."

— Kimberley Jones



I'll Come Running

I'll Come Running, which premiered on the video-on-demand service Independent Film Channel Festival Direct on Nov. 4, is a romantic dramedy about a one-night stand that starts in Texas and travels all the way to Denmark. Spencer Parsons shot the film in 2006; since then, he's learned firsthand what it's like to live long-distance. When a one-year visiting professorship gig at Northwestern University turned into a tenure-track position, Parsons — a longtime fixture of the Austin film scene (as a filmmaker, teacher, microcinema enthusiast, and occa-

I'll Come Running is available on IFC Festival Direct through Feb. 2, 2010. For more info, see www.ifcfilms.com/ifc-festival-direct.

Just Can't Get Enough

DVD year-end box sets

The Golden Age of Television

The Criterion Collection, \$49.95

You know this new box set will be steeped in nostalgia – it's right there in the title, taken from a 1981 PBS series that rebroadcast these classic teleplays for the first time since their original Fifties broadcasts. And then there's John Frankenheimer, in a checked blazer, earthy and gentlemen's-club gray: "If the magnetic tape had never been invented, I would still be doing live television." (This from the guy who gave us such big-screen thrills as *The Manchurian Candidate* and *Seven Days in May* and that silly vroom-vroomer *Grand Prix*.) "The problem is that after magnetic tape – and certain management changes at CBS – being a live television director was like being the village blacksmith after the invention of the automobile."

This new set collects eight of the finest productions to air on the likes of the *United States Steel Hour*, *Kraft Television Theatre*, and *Playhouse 90*. (Finest, yes, but grainy, too – remember, these were kinescope films, never intended for multiple rebroadcasts.) The 1981 PBS introductions provide context, not to mention a connect-the-dots of Golden Age players. Carl Reiner remembers fondly those "hairy, scary wonderful days" of live TV as he introduces *The Comedian* (1957), a trenchant, insider takedown of, you got it, live TV, written by future *Twilight Zone* creator Rod Serling (who also contributes the set's *Patterns* and *Requiem for a Heavyweight*). *The Comedian* earned universal praise for its star, Mickey Rooney, who recalled getting a laudatory telegram within hours of the broadcast from Paul Newman, who was coming off of his own triumph a year prior in the baseball drama *Bang the Drum Slowly*. It-girl Julie Harris appears as an Irish lass in the softy *A Wind From the South* (1955), and elsewhere she introduces *Days of Wine and Roses* (1958), which Frankenheimer directed and Fred Coe produced (when Frankenheimer was passed over to direct the feature version of *Wine and Roses* starring Jack Lemmon, he says, with welcome frankness, "It hurt like hell"). Scribe J.P. Miller recalls the late night he decided to call up Coe and pitch *Wine and Roses*, about a marriage destroyed by booze: "I knew in those days Fred would still be up drinking." Miller bursts out laughing. "Bless his heart." If the set – indeed the era – had a spiritual godfather, it may have been Coe; certainly his 1953 production of *Marty* was a stunner, setting a new bar for teleplays. Even more startling is the revelation that by the time the cast and crew sat down at the beginning of the week for *Marty*'s first run-through, the (inestimable) writer Paddy Chayefsky hadn't finished tapping out the third act yet. Hairy, scary, wonderful days, indeed.

– Kimberley Jones

ALSO IN VINTAGE TV

Zorro: The Complete First and Second Seasons (Disney DVD, \$59.99 each); *Hogan's Heroes: The Complete Series*, *Kommandant's Kollektion* (Paramount Home Video, \$179.99); *G.I. Joe: Complete Series Collector's Set* (Shout! Factory, \$145)

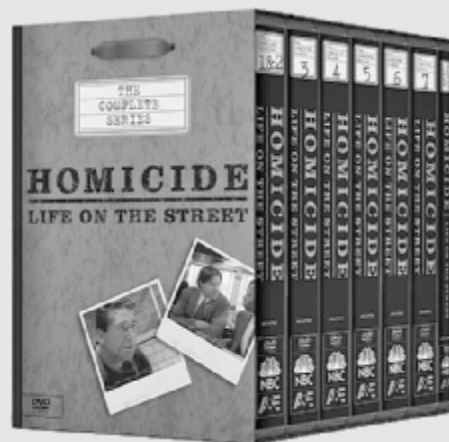
Homicide: Life on the Street – The Complete Series

A&E Home Video, \$149.95

Before HBO's Baltimore-based *The Wire* came along and blew everyone's minds (John Waters notwithstanding), the television-consuming public was pretty much dependent on one show to foster its intimacy with Body-More Murdaland. That show – *Homicide: Life on the Street* – aired on NBC for what now seems an unbelievable seven seasons (enjoying miserable ratings and critical raves throughout) – and was arguably one of the last of the great prime-time network dramas.

It was also a study in what goes into making unpopular television. Comparisons to that other Charm City show (no, not *Hot L Baltimore*) are inevitable, not least because *Homicide* was based on *The Wire* creator David Simon's book *Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets* – a chronicle of his time spent with the city homicide unit as a *Baltimore Sun* reporter. Ironically, given that it was largely based on actual cases described in Simon's book, *Homicide* was both more stylized and less naturalistic, less romanticized and sharply dialogued, and less lovingly shot than the HBO series. Jump cuts, stuttering repeated triplets of the same line, and unconventional points of view are all hallmarks of *Homicide*, the look of which can largely be credited to feature director and series executive producer Barry Levinson, here doing his first serialized television work. Verité affectations such as bad lighting, dirty-looking sets, and a number of unattractive (or at least unflatteringly shot) actors – not to mention the artless self-expression and not-immediately-compelling sociocultural backgrounds of many of its stories' victims and criminals – were choices both aesthetic and economic (the show was shot on Super 16, allowing quick, handheld camerawork); either way, they impart a Seventies-style grit that stood out among increasingly lush productions of the late Nineties, particularly those on cable.

To the network's chagrin, the show's detectives worked several cases at once, over several episodes, and left many unsolved. No one is a hero in *Homicide*, and no one is morally unambivalent; everyone is frustratingly – disturbingly – human. Writers went out of their way to challenge themselves (and audiences) with high-concept scenarios: an hour with a character trapped between a subway car and platform; an episode set entirely in an interrogation room ("the box"). And it was as talky and overtly theatrical as anything Aaron Sorkin ever dreamed up.



What turned this unlikely combination of qualities into tour de force TV is anyone's guess, but A&E's recently reissued box set of the series (identical to the 2006 version, which had been out of print) makes as complete a case for that designation as you're likely to get. The importance of its setting – the individual and collective weirdness of one of the most idiosyncratic places in the country, unfolded

expertly by Baltimore native Levinson – is particularly apparent when the series is viewed in toto. "Do you say 'Balmer' or 'Baltimore'?" asks a murder suspect in the first season's "Three Men and Adena." "Say 'Baltimore,'" he continues, "and I'll tell you within 10 blocks where you were born." By series' end, we believe we've seen and heard quite a few of those blocks and dialects, along with ridiculously circumscribed slang, churches, hospitals, drug corners, mansions, and crab legs. The "city as character" is a cliché we hear often on the box set's extras, but the fact that the show was shot on location, that most of those involved lived in Baltimore for the duration of every shooting season, and the sheer intensity of local detail lends it an easy authenticity not found on an L.A. soundstage.

There's more, always more, to be made of the indelible characters created by Andre Braugher and Melissa Leo; the slow shark-jumping that commenced, probably, with the introduction of the Luther Mahoney character, whom even Simon labels an improbably Shakespearian villain; masterful performances; feature directors; the weird, swooshing trademark musical interjection that we learned was called the "schwing"; and the number and variety of African-American characters – suitable for a show about a predominantly African-American city, of course, but unprecedented nevertheless – not to mention crises of faith, millennial panic, Colts abandonment issues, and Daniel Baldwin in bikini underwear. Like many of its cases, *Homicide* remains an open file, one that rewards compulsive viewing and fresh eyes.

– Cindy Widner

ALSO IN CRIME AND SUSPENSE

Agatha Christie: Poirot & Marple (A&E Home Video, \$134.95); *North by Northwest* (50th Anniversary Edition) (Warner Home Video, \$24.82); *Columbia Pictures Film Noir Classics I* (*The Big Heat*/5 *Against the House*/*The Lineup*/*Murder by Contract*/*The Sniper*) (Sony Pictures, \$59.95)

gift
guide
2009

The 2000 Year Old Man: The Complete History

Shout! Factory, \$59.98

So you show up at this party, and instead of the usual mingling and schmoozing, everyone is clustered around these two guys, best buddies deep into some zany routine that they're making up on the spot. The bit is killing, cracking up the entire crowd, but you can tell these jokers would be just as jazzed to be doing this and be the only ones in the room. That gleam in their eyes, the way they focus on each other, the way each breaks up so readily when the other says something hilarious, makes clear that they're taking most of their pleasure from each other's company and the shared act of comedic creation.

That was the scene throughout the Fifties when Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner, then both mining laughs for Sid Caesar on *Your Show of Shows* and *Caesar's Hour*, developed their act for *The 2000 Year Old Man*. Whenever they'd go to a party, at some point they'd be asked to perform, and Reiner would start tossing questions at Brooks, who took on the guise of a sandpaper-voiced codger, very crusty and very, very Jewish, who claimed to have

CONTINUED ON P.62





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lived through the past two millennia. Reiner's alternately awed and skeptical interviewer was as good as a straight man gets, masterfully steering the material, but the schtick flew on Brooks' inspired answers – always improvised – which explained how people really lived in ancient times (before there was God, they worshipped Phil) and provided the lowdown on history's famous figures (Shakespeare was a "pussycat" who actually wrote a 38th play, the justifiably lost *Queen Alexandra and Murray*). In time, people started throwing parties specifically for Brooks and Reiner to do the act, which led to Steve Allen urging the pair to commit it to vinyl. They did in 1960 to great success and eventually made five records over four decades, all of which are included on Shout! Factory's 4-disc *The Complete History*, along with 1961 appearances on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *The New Steve Allen Show*, a 1975 animated television special, and a half-hour conversation between the two creators in August 2009.

What's remarkable about the collection – besides, of course, Reiner and Brooks' astonishing ability to draw so much fresh, funny material from this one well again and again – is the unchanging nature of the comedians' relationship. As the years pass, you can hear the men age – by the Grammy-winning *The 2000 Year Old Man in the Year 2000*, Brooks' real voice had gone more gravely than the ancient character voice he used in the first recording – but their enthusiasm and jollity never fades. The two love playing with each other, for each other. Many great comedy teams did work this good – Bob and Ray, Nichols and May, Burns and Allen, Abbott and Costello – but you won't hear that kind of love shine through the material anywhere else. Reiner and Brooks, they never left the party, and this collection is joyful proof. – Robert Faires

ALSO IN CLASSIC COMEDY TEAMS

Legends of Laughter: Abbott & Costello (Hollywood Select Vid, \$29.98); *The Three Stooges Collection, Vol. 7: 1952-1954* (Sony Pictures, \$24.96)

Adult Swim in a Box

Turner Home Entertainment, \$69.98

Warning sirens should sound in your mind when you see a box set of DVDs with the words "cash grab" written as big as the title. Not that you see that kind of honesty often. Leave it to the folks at Adult Swim to do not only that but to name the DVD releasing arm of their production company Williams Street DVD Whores.

The poorly constructed box consists of six already-released seasons packaged just as they would be if you bought them separately, along with a previously unreleased bonus disc. Titles included such early shows as *Space Ghost Coast to Coast* and *Sealab 2021* and more current hits like *Metalocalypse* and *Robot Chicken*. It's a hard sell. If you like these shows, you probably already have some of these DVDs, and if you're new to these late-night Cartoon Network nuggets of insanity, investing in a 13-disc set might seem like overkill.

Luckily – and in keeping with the spirit of Adult



Swim – this is the anti-box-set. Boxed DVDs are usually for either the collector looking for those rare extras or the completist who wants every episode of every season. This box will disappoint both of those groups, but it will thrill the gift-giver looking for a deal. Just because it's a cash grab doesn't mean it's a rip-off.

There is conjecture that these seasons represent the best of the included shows.

That's debatable. More likely is that these were overstocked seasons that needed to be unloaded, which would explain the bargain-basement pricing. These same sets, individually packaged, would run you \$160 (suggested retail price) while the box costs less than half that. And that's not even including the disc consisting of five pilot episodes (including *Cheyenne Cinnamon* and *the Fantabulous Unicorn of Sugar Town Candy Fudge* featuring the voices of Neko Case and T-Pain). Even if you already have two of the included seasons, it's still a deal. Hell, regift the other two titles to your younger cousins to let them know that you're hip and down with the kids, cementing your status as awesome relative and likely inciting the ire of their parents (double cool points!).

– James Renovitch

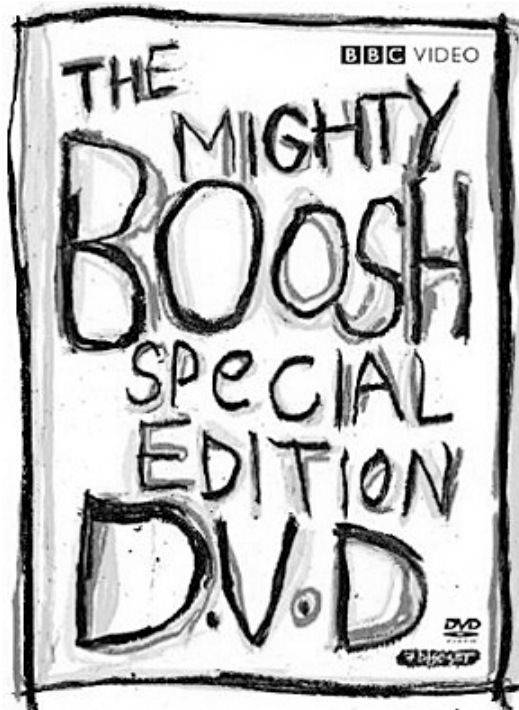


The Mighty Boosh: Special Edition DVD

BBC Warner, \$79.98

For fans of cult/hit BBC show *The Mighty Boosh*, this seven-disc special edition DVD set is sort of like a snack before dinner – dinner being the still-simmering notion of a fourth season. When Noel Fielding and Julian Barratt's bizarre British improv comedy show grew into a TV show in 2004, it gave them room to stretch their alter egos – zookeepers/

frustrated musicians Vince Noir and Howard Moon – into alternate realities and fantastical characters. Three seasons later, the show's fanbase has rightly expanded and demanded a definitive collection. And so their menagerie of time-traveling oddballs inhabits this set, from the slick art school packaging to the dizzying content, essentially giving devotees and newcomers alike a shot at all the episodes in their psychedelic glory, from the first season's Zooniverse to season three's mystical junk shop, plus bonus bits from each season and postcards with *Boosh* art. The seventh (extras) disc is a nice book-end, featuring interviews with Fielding, Barratt, and cast; footage from the duo's earliest comedy club gigs; a behind-the-scenes look at the making of Sammy the Crab, an alcoholic crustacean from the third season; and interactive features that allow you to journey through rainbow-colored wormholes into select scenes, plus catch a glimpse of Rich Fulcher (who plays irrepressible zoo manager-child Bob Fossil) dancing in the moonlight. The outtakes and deleted scenes are often funnier than the episodes they're from, pointing to the fount of wit and absurdity that is the *Boosh*. You can still see the show in reruns on Adult Swim if you don't want to lay down four Jacksons for this baby,



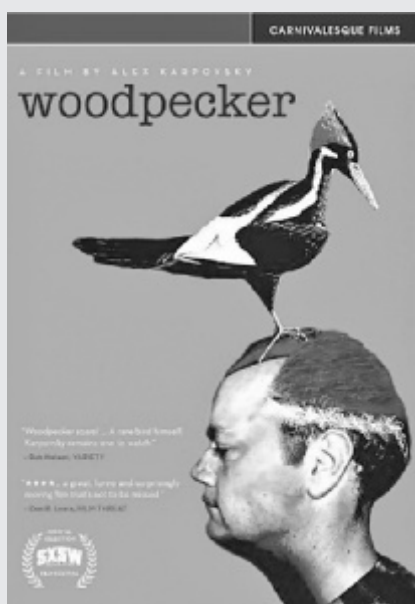
but if transsexual sea creatures and men with heads made of cheese sound intriguing to new ears, be forewarned: This box set deserves close – and repeat – viewing to be truly appreciated. – Audra Schroeder

ALSO IN BRITISH COMEDY

The Steve Coogan Collection (BBC Warner, \$129.98); *The IT Crowd: The Complete Third Season* (\$24.98, MPI Home Video)

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- The Wild Man of the Navidad** (MPI Home Video, \$24.98)
- Woodpecker** (Carnavalesque Film, \$24.95)



Bros at Mid-Life

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Last week, I obsessed over representations of women – and female friendships in particular – on TV. I heard from a couple of readers offering their consensus with what I wrote. But no one had any suggestions of current depictions of healthy female friendships on the small screen. I'm still hopeful, still looking, and still open to suggestions, strangely enough because of a new series I screened starring **Ray Romano**.

Yes, that Ray Romano, the star and producer of *Everybody Loves Raymond*. It's in syndication now but ran in prime time for nine years on CBS, despite the fact that Romano's Ray Barone was by far one of the most annoying TV husbands on the small screen. His nasally whine alone was enough to make me wonder why his wife (played by Patricia Heaton) didn't smother him in his sleep. However, Romano is pleasantly surprising in the new TNT series *Men of a Certain Age*. The nasally whine is still there, the Seventies-era haircut, the slumped shoulders, but strangely enough, in this new series, all those attributes combine for the opposite effect. Romano is actually endearing.

Romano plays Joe, a recently separated father of two who owns a party supply store. Joe is closely flanked by his buddies Terry (**Scott Bakula**) and Owen (the always amazing **Andre Braugher**). Friends since college, the men have reached middle age with that realization that life did not turn out as they expected. Joe had wanted to be a pro golfer. He still struggles with online gambling (which broke his marriage apart), thinking the next time he places a bet, win or lose, is the last time. Terry is an actor still going to cattle-call auditions, just beginning to wonder if he'll ever get his big break. Owen is the family man with two precocious boys, a loving wife, and a brand-new baby at home. He works for his family's car dealership, where his imperious father is constantly leaning on him. Overweight, diabetic, and underperforming in sales, Owen is desperate to get out from under his father's harsh glare.

Bakula and Braugher are clearly the stronger actors in the trio, and Romano is lucky to find himself in their company. While they each have their moments, it's when they share screen time that the real beauty of the series begins to reveal itself. Here is a series with real guys, doing their guy things with just enough talk to spur things forward, yet



Andre Braugher, Ray Romano, and Scott Bakula star in TNT's *Men of a Certain Age*.

with all those familiar silences that speak louder than words. Since his separation from his wife, Joe has been living in a hotel, putting off finding an apartment. When his wife appears indifferent to the idea of him seeing other women, Joe's response is to punch an Incredible Hulk blow-up doll (the favorite toy of Owen's sons) till it deflates. Owen and Terry watch him sullenly but know this is what he needs to do. But it's Braugher who, as always, shines through. Trying to pull himself out of bed every morning, sitting in his tighty-whities, his ample belly and man-breasts in full view, would be considered shocking were it not done so plainly. Would you ever see a full-figured woman displayed so honestly and without hostile commentary? It's doubtful.

Unlike previous series that tried to bring together guy pals, *Men of a Certain Age* is not trying to be a male version of *Sex and in the City*. Their lives are not glamorous; their jobs are not high-powered. The show depicts everyday guys but without resorting to sleeveless plaid shirts and baseball caps, which always seems to be the alternative to the TV man in a suit and tie (or scrubs and a white lab coat). Joe, Terry, and Owen are friends who know one another better than they know themselves. They don't always agree, but they always have the others' backs. How and why they come out for each other, week after week, seems like something well worth watching.

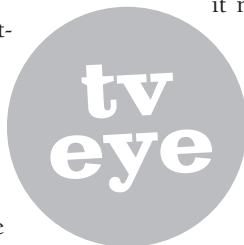
Men of a Certain Age premieres Monday, Dec. 7, at 9pm on TNT.

Note: Last week I wrote that Carrie Prejean was Miss California and a Miss America runner-up. TV Eye reader Jon Delfin wrote in to correct me. "That's Miss California USA and Miss USA runner-up." Thanks for the catch, Jon.

As always, stay tuned.

Follow TV Eye on Twitter: @ChronicleTVEye.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at tveye@austinchronicle.com.



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music

OFF THE RECORD MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

Bill Narum (1947-2009)

As a graphic artist and designer, **Bill Narum** exemplified and embellished the iconic elements of Texas into rock & roll mythology. Though best known for the bold imagery that branded **ZZ Top**, Narum's work crossed all mediums, illustrating album covers for **Stevie Ray Vaughan** and **Doug Sahm**, designing classic show posters for **Antone's** and **Threagill's**, and even dabbling in digital media. He died as he lived, sitting in front of his art table at his Thorndale home studio, the Acorn, of a heart attack. He was 62.

"Man of many talents as a gifted artist, designer and persistent protagonist on many fronts ... his hand forged the perception of the artist essence of ZZ Top ... cactus, desert sand, rattlesnakes and javalenas, jalapenos, hot sauce and hot blues rock imagery from way deep down in Texas," testified guitarist **Billy Gibbons** in a written statement. "Scribble on, Bro Bill. You were the best!"

Born in Austin but raised in Houston, Narum was an integral component of the latter's counterculture of the 1960s, co-founding radio station **KLOL** and working as an illustrator on



Space City News. He was heavily influenced by Mexican art and, upon his return to Austin in the 1970s, aligned with the infamous **Sheauxnough Studio** crew whose work defined the era of the **Armadillo World Headquarters**. Narum also served as the board president of the **South Austin Museum of Popular Culture**, where his four-decade retrospective, "You Call That Art," opened in 2005 (see "Saw It on the X," April 1, 2005). Narum is survived by his wife, **Gloria Badillo Hill**, and two daughters, **Michelle** and **Nico**, along with his sister, noted stained glass artist **Heidi Narum Hyatt**. A public memorial is scheduled to take place on his birthday, Jan. 11.

"His style always seemed so clean, professional, and commercial, while also being really, really cool: slick but funky, down-home uptown, Texas chicadelic," recalls fellow



Bill Narum, 2005

COURTESY OF BILL NARUM 2005

poster artist **Kerry Awn** of **Uranium Savages**. "Most of all, he was a wise, peaceful, calm presence amongst whatever turmoil that was swirling around him. He was the third eye of the storm. A Buddha Bubba."

Random Play

On the same weekend as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame concerts at **Madison Square Garden** last month, Vox-master **Augie Meyers** attended the Manhattan tribute concert for **Jerry Wexler**, the late **Atlantic Records** mogul who rolled deep with Austin's original cosmic cowboys (see "A Man and a Half," Dec. 1, 2000). **Lou Ann Barton**, whose 1982 debut, *Old Enough*, was produced by Wexler, performed at the event. "I was really honored that they called me," relays Meyers (see "High Texas Rider," Oct. 30). "They asked me to play, but I said, 'Nah, you got too many interesting people here already.'"

Graham Reynolds and the **Golden Hornet Project's** three-piece string section expertly assisted **DJ Spooky** on Friday at **Hogg Auditorium** for *Terra Nova: Sinfonia Antarctica*, a 70-minute, three-act suite of multisensorial geological wonderment and hypnotic orchestration. "We have big talk of doing a concert and album together," says Reynolds. As for the GHP's **Led Zeppelin** covers on Spooky's latest, *The Secret Song*, those particular string arrangements were written for other material and later repurposed. "That's the thing about remixing," Reynolds relates. "It blurs the chicken and the egg thing."

Having ridden the **Grohlercoaster** (see "Seek and Destroy," Jan. 9), the **Sword's Trivett Wingo** resurrects his awesomely titled **Nirvana** tribute act **In Dudero** on Saturday at **Trailer Space Records** with the **Shitty Beach Boys**.

In the spirit of true Thanksgiving, Austin's **Inside Books Project**, a volunteer-operated nonprofit that helps reduce recidivism by providing free books to prisoners, hosts a benefit at **Mercury Hall** (615 Cardinal) on Tuesday with local electro-pop outfit the **Bright Light Social Hour**. The suggested donation of \$10 includes a catered meal from **Ecstatic Cuisine** and **Corazon at Castle Hill**, among others, and drinks provided by New Belgium.



Head Stooze Iggy Pop, SXSW '07

JOHN ANDERSON

Gimme Danger

As is now customary for the *Chronicle* Music staff, the annual ballot casting for the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame** begins with the airing of grievances. "This is getting worse every year," bemoans senior writer **Margaret Moser**, who was recently appointed by **City Council** to serve on the **Austin Music Commission**. "It's not even who they're leaving out; it's who they're nominating," furthers Music Editor **Raoul Hernandez** regarding this year's runts of the litter: the **Chantels**, **Genesis**, the **Hollies**, **LL Cool J**, and **Red Hot Chili Peppers** – the latter a baffling nod considering the lack of representation for the entire post-punk generation. Despite high praise from **Dylan** himself, **Doug Sahm** was once more left off the ballot, along with the **13th Floor Elevators** and **Stevie Ray Vaughan**, now in his second year of eligibility. For the fourth time, the **Stooges** unanimously earned our No. 1 spot, and were it possible, the remaining four as well, while disco diva **Donna Summer** saved us a vote as an obvious shoo-in. **Metallica's James Hetfield** "put some nods out" at last year's induction ceremony for the heavier bands worthy of inclusion (**Thin Lizzy**, **Rush**, **Iron Maiden**, **Motörhead**), but only **Kiss** made the Hall's cut, and it would take more than a Motor City riot at its **Frank Erwin Center** gig on Dec. 4 for the *Chronicle* to vote for **Gene Simmons'** motley crew over songstress **Laura Nyro**, *Back to Mono* wallflower **Darlene Love**, **Jimmy Cliff**, or **ABBA**, who round out our top five. Local metal tribute act **Stabba**, meanwhile, slays "Dancing Queen" at **Carousel Lounge**, Dec. 5.



Lyle Lovett

JOHN ANDERSON

Step Inside This House

The day after **Jody Denberg** hosted his last Sunday specialty show on **KGSR**, **Lyle Lovett** stopped by the studio for an intimate tribute to the cornerstone local deejay who, as discussed here last week, is signing off the air following the station's anniversary party Dec. 5. Surrounded only by Denberg's family and closest friends in the **KGSR**

Music Lounge, Lovett delivered an exquisite version of **Vince Bell's** "Sun & Moon & Stars" and *Natural Forces'* "Pantry" before plucking **Shawn Colvin** from the front row for the tender duet "North Dakota" and switching places for her "Diamond in the Rough." "Nobody would know anything about me if it wasn't for Jody," Lovett quipped. According to Program Director **Lynn Barstow**, **KGSR** won't make any decisions regarding a possible replacement until well after the new year, but he added that, due to fiscal concerns, the station might absorb the loss within its current staff. Meanwhile, **Emmis Communications** announced on Thursday that **KGSR**, whose latest **Broadcasts** installment hits stores Friday (see "Texas Platters," p.70), has changed its frequency to **93.3FM**, which is licensed to the city of Cedar Park, as opposed to Bastrop. The move, permanent on Nov. 30, bolsters the station's audible range, while an as-yet-unnamed new Spanish-language format will debut on 107.1FM at that time.

Drop in a Pond

Last Tuesday, **South by Southwest** announced a whopping six confirmations for March madness 2010 (**Japandroids**, the **Temper Trap**, **Giulia y los Tellarini**, the **Hong Kong Blood Opera**, **Archie Bronson Outfit**, **Chew Lips**), which were more than enough to get the blogosphere chattering. Then an initial list, made up mostly of foreign acts – whose travel itineraries necessitate a longer lead time – dropped this week. While not all of the applications have been processed, **SXSW Music Creative Director Brent Grulke** plans to continue releasing confirmations on a weekly basis. "With the speed of the Internet, the information gets out there, and obviously a lot of misinformation, too," stresses Grulke. The biggest surprise thus far is a reunion from Austin shoegaze champions **Sixteen Deluxe**. Last year, **Frenchie Smith** told the *Chronicle*, "If it were to happen, we would need to figure out a good cause."

Steel Bluebonnet Determination

Robin Shivers' gift to the music scene

BY MARGARET MOSER

Robin Shivers' death on Oct. 26 left Austin another hole in its soul.

Shivers, 53, was instrumental in creating the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians, yet her other efforts in the music community were substantial. Besides years of service to the Seton health care system, she also worked with KLRU and chaired its benefit concerts.

When her interest in music began dominating her time, she started a management company and took on roots rockers Loose Diamonds and their frontman Troy Campbell as clients. Among numerous boards she served on, she advised the Gibson GuitarTown project and Clifford Antone's annual fundraiser for American YouthWorks. Her dance card was always full.

Still, nothing in Robin Shivers' life growing up suggested she'd one day be a patron saint of the Austin scene, a contemporary Saint Cecilia on the Colorado. And Shivers — a socialite in every sense of the word — didn't just change the music community. The music community changed her.

The Unlikely Angel

Graham, Texas, sits in the center of a triangle with Wichita Falls at the top and Abilene and Fort Worth at the bottom. "The North Star of Texas," as the region calls itself, was settled and prospered because of its natural bounty of salt. Shivers was born Robin Ratliff there on March 23, 1956, and the family name is still present throughout the area.

Hers was a family of privilege. John Wesley Ratliff was an investor and venture capitalist married to Robbie Harlan. Early in Shivers' life, her parents moved with their four children to Fort Worth, where she graduated from Arlington Heights High School. Even then, her direction was focused. While classmates were giggling over *16 Magazine* (see "Dreamsville," Nov. 30, 2007), the girl nicknamed "Grandma" by her family for her organizational skills read *Fortune* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

After graduation, she applied to and was accepted to the University of Texas at Austin, taking courses in business administration. To no one's surprise, she was an excellent student, and her mostly male classmates often called upon her for homework assistance.

Robin Ratliff cut a striking figure on campus. Dressing in jeans with silk shirts and high heels, she exuded the casual elegance Princess Diana was noted for. Even recently, her hairstyle was a throwback to the coiffed fashions of the 1950s and pre-mod 1960s, eschewing the lanky straight hair often favored since the hippie era. She emanated gentility and good breeding from the social class that avoids media glare and believes your photo should appear in the paper only three times in your life: birth, marriage, and death. She was a modern Southern



TODD V. WOLFSON

Nothing in Robin Shivers' life growing up suggested she'd one day be a patron saint of the Austin scene, a contemporary Saint Cecilia on the Colorado.

belle with a butter-melting accent and a manner of looking into your eyes that let one know you were the center of her attention.

No wonder she glided seamlessly into the life of Allan "Bud" Shivers.

Tailor-Made for Each Other

If Robin Ratliff led a privileged upbringing, it was one tailor-made for a man like Bud Shivers. They were introduced on a blind date at a sit-down dinner. Robin looked beyond the silver wheelchair he was in, the result of an accident

that broke his neck while in the U.S. Coast Guard. She gazed into his eyes with that penetrating look of hers and saw strength of character and intelligence. They married in 1978.

Allan "Bud" Shivers Jr. was named for his father, Allan Shivers, the governor of Texas from 1949 to 1957. The Shivers family lived a life Bud's younger sister recalls as idyllic. Cissie Shivers Ferguson recalls watching parades from the vantage point of the Governor's Mansion and thinking, "The Capitol grounds were our extended playground." When the

Democratic governor broke with his party over the Tidelands debate, turning his support to Republican candidate Dwight Eisenhower, the Shivers administration marked a turning point in Texas politics. That trickled down to the young married couple of Robin and Bud, who counted among their friends George W. and Laura Bush.

To some, Shivers' lifelong devotion to her husband resembled that of Eleanor Roosevelt, who told the nation, "I am my husband's legs." Yet Shivers wasn't her husband's legs. He was mobile with his chair and stood tall on his own reputation as a consultant with the Shivers Group. While the couple didn't have any children, they led an active life, socially and politically. Robin Shivers, Cissie Ferguson notes, "was more than just well-matched to my brother.

"She completed Bud's life."

Lady Bird of the Music Scene

For some 28 years, Robin Shivers worked in the Seton health care system, supporting the Seton Fund and the Daughters of Charity. She and her husband served on the board for much of that time, and when the opportunity came to work with KLRU, she took it also. With her ever-present smile and unflappable demeanor, she resembled another Texas matriarchal figure, Lady Bird Johnson, who devoted her efforts to making Texas more beautiful long after Lyndon B. Johnson's presidency and death.

While chairing fundraisers that brought the likes of George Jones and the up-and-coming Garth Brooks to Austin, Shivers' longtime but private love for music began to merge with her hospital work. Those KLRU fundraisers provided a new, more artistic gratification in her work, and in the early 1990s, the Shiverses opened a management company, RRS Management.

"She had killer shoes and awesome hair," Troy Campbell recalls from when he applied for a job with her office. "I started to tell her about myself, and she pulled out a file on the Jo Carol Pierce record and said, 'I know about you.' She said she wanted to manage a national artist. I told her I didn't want a manager; I wanted a job. 'I'll keep my eye on you,' she said.

"After that, I'd be playing an acoustic gig, and I'd see her at the back. She wouldn't acknowledge us. She might look up, but she was writing notes the whole time. Then she'd split. About three months later, she asked to have a meeting with me and said: 'Look, I thought about it. I'd like to manage you, and here's how it's going to go. I'm not here to give you money,' she said. 'First on my list is getting your publishing back.'

"Number two on her list was getting me health insurance."

The deal sealed with an agreement to get Campbell's publishing back and his promise to "learn everything about publishing and why [he] lost it."

CONTINUED ON P.68

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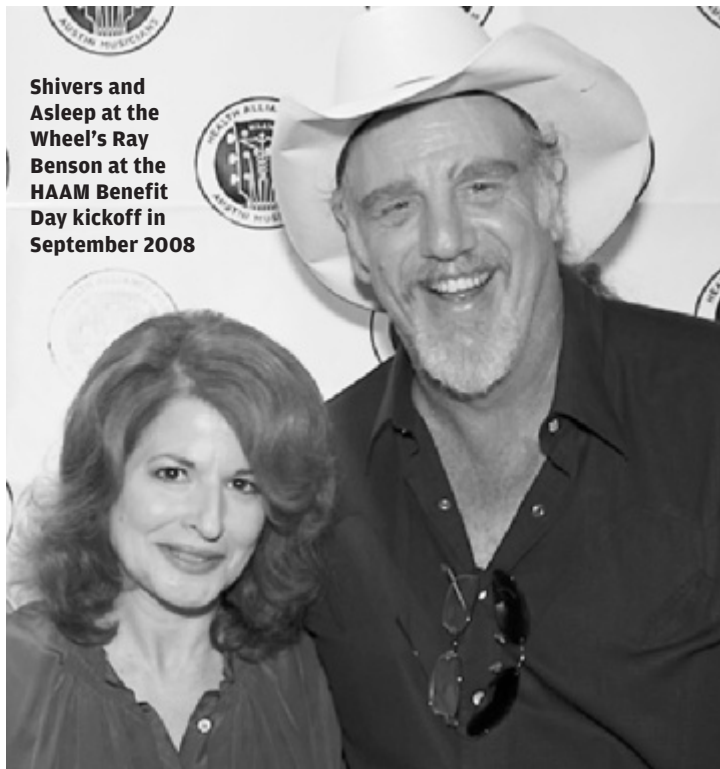
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Shivers and Asleep at the Wheel's Ray Benson at the HAAM Benefit Day kickoff in September 2008

PHOTO BY CALIEE RICHMOND/COURTESY OF HAAM

“She was looking out for the musicians holistically – their music, their health, their finances,” says HAAM Executive Director Carolyn Schwarz softly.

that weren't getting grease. She watched as benefits became monthly then weekly events, and then turned into a kind of benefit mania, sometimes with several in a week.

Shivers didn't believe in small benefits, though she donated generously and often. Why, she wondered to those around her, don't Austin's major corporations donate to the arts? In Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston, it is a given that big businesses underwrite

the arts. In Austin, it was a radical thought for a community that regularly emptied its own pockets to support itself.

The success of Clifford Antone's Help Clifford Help Kids fundraiser for American YouthWorks laid largely with Shivers. The program designed to help at-risk teens and dropouts get their high school diplomas while training for the future is often, Susan Antone believes, “the last house on the last street for some kids.

“And Robin was such a class act,” laments Antone. “Once she got in the door, she always made it better.”

HAAM 2.0

Then there was HAAM. The seeds had been planted years before, between fundraisers and management adventures, but it grew to fruition as the millennium changed and its engine met with various industry factions around Austin, sometimes at lunches, sometimes in appointments, sometimes by genteelly collaring people like Ray Benson at events. When Robin Shivers tackled a job, she saw it through past the end.

She had visited and studied the Musicians Clinic in New Orleans and applied her years of experience from Seton to HAAM, which developed a wide array of services: mental-health counseling through the already existing SIMS Foundation, primary health care provided by the Seton Family of Hospitals, and dental care services provided by St. David's Community Health Foundation Leadership.

“We probably worked 60 hours a week together for the first couple of years. I got paid; she didn't,” says HAAM Executive Director Carolyn Schwarz softly. “That was the level of commitment Robin had, that roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-into-it thing. She was looking out for the musicians holistically – their music, their health, their finances.”

In spring 2005, HAAM went public. Barely in town two years, Schwarz had been working with Insure-a-Kid when Shivers handpicked her to head the new organization. As outsider to the scene, the two women shared many qualities, among them “a sense of perfection and also directness,” says Schwarz.

Between them, HAAM was an instant hit, and has provided for some 1,600 people in the community. Most recently, ear clinics by Estes Audiology Hearing Centers were added to the roster (see “Off the Record,” Nov. 20). Additionally, HAAM offers discounts for vision needs, second opinions, birthing, acupuncture, overall wellness exams, and more. Its success has galvanized other music communities to follow; in Arizona, the Tucson Artists and Musicians Healthcare Alliance patterned itself on HAAM. Yet the next move for Shivers was out the door.

“She was excited about the future,” states Campbell. “She knew HAAM would work out and grow. Carolyn and the crew there are kicking ass. Her plan was to step out and work on something new. Of course, there will be a void, but HAAM will succeed. For my fellow musicians, the quality of life has gone up. For somebody with a dream like Robin, it was followed all the way.”

“Robin was great about succession planning and trained me really well,” agrees Schwarz. “She laid an amazing foundation and groundwork and left us in a strong financial and organizational position for HAAM 2.0, whatever that will be.

“I always thought we were going to do this together,” says Schwarz, pausing to take a breath. “Now, I have her on my shoulder.”

Grace

It's a warm May morning in 2006 as Robin Shivers walks into the Four Seasons restaurant, notebook in hand, and seats herself at the reserved table. Shortly, she's joined by a red-eyed Susan Antone; the nightclub's legal mouthpiece, Michael Maguire; and two friends, present to make this awful meeting just a little easier. Today we're putting together Clifford Antone's obituary.

Susan Antone is understandably an emotional wreck. She appears pulled together on the outside, but if you know her, the loss of her brother is palpable. She enters at a somnambulistic pace. Shivers rises and hugs her friend. Her words, delivered in a cool,

comforting tone, soothe Antone, who nods. Shivers guides her to a chair, and Antone slumps into it. Nothing could make this day easier, but Shivers' presence made it bearable.

Two years later, the phone rings. Robin Shivers, in that voice no one could refuse, makes a painful request: Would I write Danny Roy Young's obituary?

The next morning, sunny and hot, we're at the Youngs' house on Bluebonnet Lane. Shivers is seated at the kitchen table amid the museumlike collections Young was famous for. His wife, Lu, and mother, Margo, flank her, their faces frozen in grief, trying to go through the motions despite being wracked with pain. His grown children and grandchildren wander in and out of the room, voices subdued and whispered.

Questions are asked and information is collected. Shivers' head bobs from one to another, her soothing voice a gentle balm to the raw emotions that come in waves of tears and bowed heads. When I'm finished gathering the details, I prepare to depart the Youngs, but she did not. Robin Shivers left only after there was nothing else to be done.

Two days after Shivers' death, an e-mail arrived. Her sister-in-law, Cissie Ferguson, whom I'd never met, asks that I write Robin's

obituary. For so kind and generous a woman as Robin Shivers, it's a minuscule payment back for her massive efforts. Yet it's a terrible and deeply painful task. Two years younger than me and in seemingly excellent health – fit and trim – Shivers was a friend, a peer, and an inspiration, one of a small group of women my age in the business, and one I trusted implicitly because she was so completely honorable.

With the acceptance of that difficult request, I found a cruel solace in Robin Shivers' death. If she had to leave this

world so early and so young, she went without pain and without violence, on quiet wings. I sat down at my computer, and the words flowed with aching deliberation:

ROBIN RATLIFF SHIVERS
1956-2009

On the 26th of October, in the year of grace 2009, Robin Shivers' unanticipated passing left a considerable emptiness in the Ratliff and Shivers families and in her larger circle of friends and acquaintances ■



Robin and Bud Shivers

TODD V. WOLFSON

92 PROOF



“MY WORK SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.”

—NORMAN “SAILOR JERRY” COLLINS

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KGSR BROADCASTS VOL. 17 (107.1 KGSR Radio Austin)

Jody Denberg's labor of love over 17 years and 34 CDs, KGSR's *Broadcasts* series sells itself on the bullet points alone: \$2 million raised for SIMS since Vol. 5; all artists donate their tracks for one-time use; save for dregs of *Vols. 14* and *15*, all runs have sold out; Vol. 1 once sold for \$150-200 on eBay until someone bootlegged it. *Broadcasts Vol. 17* ends an era now that Brother Jody exits the frequency he built, and if it doesn't always go out with the bang of Alejandro Escovedo's "Velvet Guitar" and Ben Harper wringing snorty guitar soul out of "Lay There and Hate Me," it ain't whimpering Ryan Adams & the Cardinals ("Fix It") and Pete Yorn ("Don't Wanna Cry") either. Another 2-CD smorgasbord pigging out on 40 live and unique recordings, *BV17* does what all of Denberg's heartfelt productions have managed: a mash-up of Austin's passions past, present, and future through a web of musical interconnectivity. Abigail Washburn's banjo pluck over Ben Sollee's sorrowful cello saw on "What Are They Doing in Heaven Today?" segues divinely into Gillian Welch's breezy "Everything Is Free," but both ladies better be looking over their shoulders for Sarah Jarosz ("Song Up in Her Head"). Maceo Parker's short, sweet "Blues for Clifford" Antone, electric piano the rye crisp under the sax man's soft wedge, sets up Peter Case's acoustic dust-up on "Crooked Mile," sounding like the path to Woodstock 1969. The usual suspects (Tift Merritt, Raul Malo) line up with the talking blues of Todd Snider's "The Ballad of the Kingsmen," which pairs with Hayes Carl's feed-store vulnerability of "Beaumont." The Southern strain, Derek Trucks' sky-crying slide ("Already Free") and the fleet-fingered Allman-esque picking of the North Mississippi Allstars' "M.L. Going



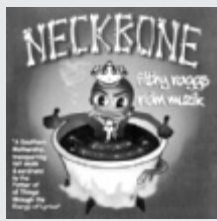
Home," peaks on Ryan Bingham & the Dead Horses' National Steel slide "Bread and Water." Misses – Gomez's soggy "Airstream Driver" and Arc Angels toothless "Sent by Angels" – are few among middle-of-the-road local fare (Asleep at the Wheel, Ruthie Foster), especially when our own take the high road: the Gourds' literature of the absurd ("Tex-Mex Mile") and Spoon's acoustic verité ("Black Like Me"). That's when the mountain air of the Avett Brothers ("Murder in the City") leads to the whistled aviary of Andrew Bird ("Fitz & the Dizzyspells"). Adele ("Right as Rain") could be any chasm-voiced Brit bird, and discoveries like French/Nigerian Asa ("Jailer") stoke serious interest, but BettySoo's power projection ("Never Knew No Love") reps A-Town with bravado. And then there's the "gets": Tori Amos' paralyzing piano drama ("Silent All These Years") and Steve Earle scrubbing layers of dead skin off Townes Van Zandt's "Ft. Worth Blues" as the closer. Wait for the hidden, 41st track; *Broadcasts Vol. 17* is dedicated to beloved Stephen Bruton.

★★★ – Raoul Hernandez

beatbox

Proving that soulful Texas hip-hop still has a pulse despite the departure of Bavu Blakes, locals **Neckbone** turn ATX on the Southern-playalistic tip with *Filthy Raggz Ridin Muzik* (Urbanian Entertainment), a 19-track mother ship connection that's all "Bounce Slide Bounce." Fueled by the dirty stank of Ter'ell Shahid's Promethazine-injected funk, rappers Cooley Fly and James "Kowboy" Lang emerge "Soul V.I.P.'s," with Kowboy's guttural drawl setting the bar on "Tryin So Hard (2 Be a Baller)." Contributions from a slew of Austin's finest, including Blakes, Gerald G, Black Mike, Drift, and D.O.S. make this a fitting "Welcome 2 Austin" for the modern age. Just as fresh out of the frying pan but without the pedigree, **Lil' A & Lil' Nash** go "Barkin' Up the Wrong Tree" on *Loyalty Is Everything* (Blood Money), chasing swagger, "Top Notch Dough," and "Stunna Shades" on this Houstonized street release mixed by DJ Grip. "Turn My Swag On" is undeniable, but *Loyalty* trips on too many trite beats ("Fakin' Real," "Make a Lot of Money") and loose hooks. "Jolly Rancher," Neckbone's "Lollipop," should provide a few laughs. With a slew of support running all the way up to Chamillionaire and Fonzworth Bentley, East Austin's **Gerald G** turns to the Mixtape Mechanic once again (can't G just make an album, already?) for *What's Really Hood?* (Monsta Entertainment). It's what you'd expect from the man dubbed Mr. 512 – pristine lyricism ("Whut It Dew") and plenty of heat ("Rodeo") – and *Hood* rides on DJ Rapid Ric's effortless mastery of mixtape structure. Need proof? Check the four-song string of "Gangsta Paradise," "My Bread," "Bitches," and "Get Yo Game Up."

– Chase Hoffberger



texas platters

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BRAZOS *Phosphorescent Blues (Autobus)*

With a sophistication only hinted at on previous EPs, Brazos ripples through the past brightly on its full-length debut, *Phosphorescent Blues*. Opener "My Buddy" slowly builds with the evocative grandeur of Grizzly Bear, while the sparse, icy chill of "Avignon" suggests *In Rainbows*-era Radiohead. "Day Glo" and the unfolding piano arpeggios of "We Understand Each Other" hint at Jon Brion's *Eternal Sunshine*. Yet, pianist/guitarist Martin Crane comes into his own here, most notably in the snappy "Kid" and rushing "Tell." There's an IMAX quality to his crystalline vocal inflections and photographic imagery; the presentation alone makes the experience worthwhile, which is why he can croon over the same hypnotic guitar loop for the entirety of his swinging, Adrienne Rich adaptation, "The Observer," without losing the listener's interest. It's a rare quality that subtly creates the space for guitarist Nathan Stein and White Denim drummer Josh Block to color around him, as in the blissfully nostalgic "Downtown Boys." *Phosphorescent Blues* is a local triumph by any measure.

★★★★★

– Austin Powell



LYMBYC SYSTEM *Shutter Release (Mush)*

Taking cues from the Postal Service, brothers Mike and Jared Bell took a piecemeal approach to Lymbyc System's latest, *Shutter Release*, exchanging ideas and recordings from their home bases in Austin and Brooklyn, respectively. That collaborative process adds some serious weight and density to the duo's third LP, which expands upon 2007's *Love Your Abuser* in every regard. That's thanks in part to contributions from San Marcos' This Will Destroy You, neoclassicists Slow Six, and Austin's Balmorhea, most notably in the banjo-assisted nostalgia of "T-ball" and "Bedroom Anthem," which swells unexpectedly from a beat-assisted acoustic guitar melody to a climax of horns and drums. The sweeping opener "Trichromatic" and rushing title track transcend the laptop post-rock tag, while the dreamy "Interiors" and "Kubrick" filter sparse piano, percussion, and xylophone through the magnetic ambience of the Western Vinyl canon, the latter adding shimmering guitar feedback. That melding of electronic and acoustic is the key to *Shutter Release*, an album rich with kitchen-sink-included instrumental Polaroids that slowly develop and reveal their narrative streak.

★★★★★

– Austin Powell



NELO *Two Years Ago (Justice)*

"It was two years ago that I sang my first note," opens the title track of Nelo's *Two Years Ago* EP, Reid Umstatt's most earnest croon delivered against the backdrop of piano and acoustic guitar. In those two years since the local quintet returned from incubation in Athens, Ga., and released its eponymous debut LP, Nelo has honed its sound into a more confident, coherent blend. Yet while principle songwriter Matt Ragland has better accommodated Umstatt's strengths, and the acoustic orientation of these five tunes plays well to the Alpha Rev contingent of the Antone's crowd, *TYA* still mires in trite 1990s pop-rock that lacks distinctive edge. The strings of "Waiting for It" and sax shading of "Break Through" integrate without purpose, clipping radio-made bounce ("Story of Our Lives") and overwrought emotion ("Love Solution"). Something unique may still happen.

★★

– Doug Freeman



SONS OF HERCULES *A Different Kind of Ugly (Sautex Media)*

If the Sons of Hercules had originated in late-1970s New York, they'd be venerated like the Dead Boys or Richard Hell in punk annals. *A Different Kind of Ugly* unleashes the same kind of muscular one-two blasted in that period, a neat trick for street-walkin' cheetahs from San Antonio's early 1990s. As tightly knit a musical outfit as they are, they still revolve around their lanky, charismatic frontman, Frank Pugliese, whose uncompromising love for 1960s garage rock soaks every track in anthemic beat. Among blistering new songs ("Numb," "Brain Dead," "Still Waitin'"), the Sons have covered the Lazy Cowgirls' "Rock of Gibraltar" and the Saints' "Misunderstood" with appropriate growl and panache. And these boys need no seal of approval to take their place as San Antonio's premier garage band. They reclaim that turf the way the Alamo was won, with blood, sweat, and beers.

★★★

– Margaret Moser

UNCLE BRUNO

Uncle Bruno owes a heavy debt to New Orleans funk and jammers Galactic, but the local quintet's roots extend deeper, to the bands of jazz fusion pioneers like Billy Cobham and Herbie Hancock. Locally that brand of jazz has seen a renaissance of sorts thanks to Topaz & Mudphonic and the Greyhounds, and led by the saxophone blast of Damon Garcia and slink and screech of guitarist Matt Kincaid, this Uncle fits in nicely. The group's seven-song debut offers solid, if at



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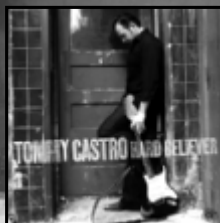
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times repetitious, grooves which vary from the near Zappa-esque "Play Nice" to the Booker T. soul of "Bobo Twins," featuring the Drop Trio's Ian Varley sitting in on organ. "Judge a Book" is the disc's highlight; hornback bass leads the way for a mellifluous horn duet between Garcia and trombonist Allen Sanders, while Kincaid's skronk builds to a beautiful, butt-shaking mess. ★★★

— Jim Caligiuri

SHELLEY KING
Welcome Home
(Lemonade Records)

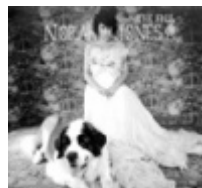
A new Shelley King album is always occasion to celebrate and guarantee to spin at least a couple of songs into the stratosphere. *Welcome Home* isn't just a pleasant sounding homily; it's back-to-back killer tracks start to finish, with songsmith King's full-custom gospel voice matched with fellow co-producers and Subdudes John Magnie, Tim Cook, and Steve Amedée. Hers is such a divine rendering of compositional craft that the lengthy wait between albums is worth it. She's the player who can hit all the balls, from bluesy balladry ("It's Starting to Rain") and gospel ("Welcome Home") to zydeco ("Everything's All Right") and country swamp pop ("Asking Too Much") with righteous force and, here, spare instrumentation that only enhances the music. One of these days, some singer will make Shelley King a wealthy woman. Meanwhile, her sweet Texas honey soul is still ours to savor. ★★★

— Margaret Moser



NORAH JONES
The Fall (Blue Note)

Breakups have long brought out the best in singer-songwriters. With longtime collaborator Lee Alexander no longer in the picture, Norah Jones relies on a host of



co-writers, including Ryan Adams and especially producer Jacquire King (Tom Waits, Modest Mouse) to change direction, and the result is her most sonically challenging to date. Jones' ever-sultry voice never rises to a scream, but King brings gauzy soundscapes and altered instruments to add an edge to the disc that allows for repeat listening. Most interesting is "Stuck," a co-write with Okkervil River's Will Sheff, which highlights Jones' new penchant for guitar and percolates like Aimee Mann visiting the East Coast. From the pop radio bounce of "Chasing Pirates" to "Man of the Hour," a bluesy ode to a dog, *The Fall* offers many new sides to Jones while remaining comfortably close to the jazz diva many adore. ★★★

— Jim Caligiuri

JEFF LOFTON
QUARTET
Jazz to the People

Trumpeter Jeff Lofton hits the bull's-eye on this sterling local debut that digs a deep groove regardless of tempo. Since coming to Austin from South Carolina several years ago, Lofton has been omnipresent on the scene. Never bashful of his admiration for Miles Davis, he's crafted a sound largely around Davis' formative quintet of the late 1950s. It's a sound that embraces the blues and swings passionately whether riding herd on originals "Shana's Song" and "Mouth of Gabriel" or coying up to chestnuts "Crazy" and "Georgia on My Mind." Lofton reinforces the Miles connection with the deft use of muted trumpet on soulful strutters "Headless Blues" and "A.I.M." Highlight "Herbie's Time" blows reminiscent of Lee Morgan's Blue Note hits of the mid-1960s. Reinforcement from underappreciated pianist Red Young, who's superb throughout, and always formidable local saxman Alex Coke help make this a delightfully swingin' affair. ★★★

— Jay Trachtenberg



alternative tracks BY AUSTIN POWELL

SHALLOWS A.D.
Alien Nation
(Deep Waste)

The bedroom project of one Matthew V, Shallows A.D. employs a 4-track and drum machine to masterful effect on this 13-song debut, recalling early Jesus & Mary Chain demos ("Thoughtcrime" and "Caress") and Nirvana with the *Lights Out* ("Wander Away," "Rat Rock"). Worth tracking down, especially for the mellower moments, "Grand Enclave" and "Left Alive." ★★★



Landing." *Strangers* hinges on the candy-coated delivery of vocalist/keyboardist Samantha Constant, who excels in "She Walks in Beauty," a Lord Byron interpretation set to *Surrealistic Pillow* psychedelia, but falters elsewhere ("All the Pretty Pictures"). ★★★

DISTANCE RUNNER
A Lesson in Gravity

With more promise than substance, this homegrown quintet takes a few lessons from like-minded indie outfits Cold War Kids and Tokyo Police Club. The winning ingredients are accounted for – strong vocalist/guitarist Arin Robinson (opener "Feel Anything"), post-rock dynamics ("House Call"), and even radio-ready single "Salt in the Wound" – but Distance Runner hasn't gone the extra mile with them. ★★



THE DEAF EARS
Live Forever

Former Tammany Hall Machine conductor Joel Mullins picks up right where he left off, opening his new quartet's debut with an energetic, piano-pop punch that shares the title and charm of Tammany's last disc, 2007's *Amateur Saw*. Blueprint's the same (Beatles, Raspberries), but Wurlitzer boogie ("You Tell Tara") and 1960s Brit-pop ("Monument") make *Live Forever* feel like a fresh start. ★★★



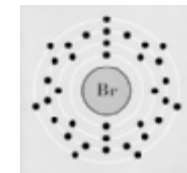
CANDI & THE STRANGERS

This local quintet hits a sweet spot between the retro-futurism of School of Seven Bells and Octopus Project's luminous landscapes, especially in the sci-fi instrumental "Isabella Blue's Crash



BABY ROBOTS
Probably Portions & Portions (Catland Rekids)

The latest from Rubble guitarist Bobby Baker's band of croonies opens with rain-soaked soundscape "Eva Mendez Rehab Stint" and continues through a lysergic cycle of recovery: denial (the droning "Judgement Judy"), anger (proto-punkish "She Lied"), and finally acceptance (the acoustic "Understanders"). There are a few slo-mo jams and a distinct VU vibe, manifesting in a stellar cover of "Some Kinda Love." ★★★



country mile BY MARGARET MOSER

TWO TONS OF STEEL

Not That Lucky
(Smith Entertainment)

Lloyd Maines' production kicks *Lucky* above the usual shuffle-cross-the-honky-tonk tunes. That's not to overlook 2T's amiable harmonies and bouncy country rock. Some bands ya pay to sit and listen to and others you pay to two-step to, and seldom do the twain meet. ★★



CLAY NIGHTINGALE

This disarming recording comes out of nowhere, courtesy of the San Marcos-based sextet. There's no titular Clay Nightingale, but brothers Daniel and Drew Schaez render atmospheric story-songs ("How We Outdrink the Silver Pines") with compelling vocals that assure this band a future. ★★★



REID WILSON & HIS SO-CALLED FRIENDS
Country Music Revolution
(Dead Bird Records)

Here's pure old-school outlaw country for the 4:20 crowd with a touch of Cornell Hurd whimsy thrown in. "Rowdy," "The Hairjuana Song" and "Girls With Tattoos" pretty much say it all. This ain't thinking music; it's drinking music, so swing yer partner and kick out the jams. ★★★



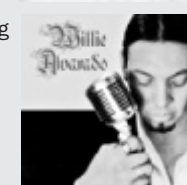
BRANDON JENKINS
Brothers of the Dirt
(Red Dirt Music Co.)

Brandon Jenkins looks like he'd be more comfortable outside the Red Eyed Fly than Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon, but his roots music within is as solidly muscled as his tattooed forearms. Flag-wavers ("Blood for Oil") and country blues ("Marching Toward the Guns") aplenty for Jenkins, a member of those Okie-Texans with one foot in Bob Wills and the other in ZZ Top. ★★★



latin beat

Los Lonely Boys' new 1969 EP on Playing in Traffic/Lonelytone Records christens the San Angelo trio's post-Sony transition to its management's new imprint, which also reps the Steps and Sahara Smith. Five well-trod covers, "Evil Ways," Buddy Holly's "Well All Right" (also covered by Santana once), "She Came in Through the Bathroom Window," "Polk Salad Annie," and the Doors' "Roadhouse Blues," float the cover bar keg, with only the Beatles' break-in transformed by "Texican soul." **El Tule** comes in at an extended extended-play length, with six meaty tracks on *Volumen II* and the local septet's big band Latinate giving Grupo Fantasma a serious run for its pesos. "Silver and Gold" plates the starter pistol's dual guitar/bass jungle strut, "Cumbia Cubana Electrica" measures out gleaming brass conductivity, and "Mi Niño" booms Miami as "La Botana" stuffs itself on Caribbean surf, turf, and tequila. *Que rico!* **Hector Ward & the Big Time** sounds like LLB singer/bassist JoJo Garza fronting Tule or Grupo on *Freightline Funk*, nine pieces busting out raunchy horn-rimmed roots 'n' ska as in the hopped-up "Azucar." Does Willie Nelson know his single malt whiskey flows south of the border on Ward's "Gypsy River"? Another San Angeloan, **Willie Alvarado** debuts on Vallejo's imprint VMG. Produced by Rick del Castillo and the Vallejo Bros., the Spanish crooner's eponymous knockout cherry-picks choice Latin balladry, which he then absolutely booms with a prizefighter's fearlessness and Casanova's caress. Tomás Méndez ("Cucurucucú Paloma"), Consuelo Velázquez ("Bésame Mucho"), and Pedro Flores ("Amor Perdido") lend Alvarado's bottomless voice timeless compositions to serenade golden anniversaries. *Quatro estrellas*, four stars. — Raoul Hernandez



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



The first line of defense at the 400 Iraqi police checkpoints in Baghdad are small wands with antennas that supposedly detect explosives, but which U.S. officials say are about as useful as *Ouija* boards. The Iraqi official in charge, Maj. Gen. Jihad al-Jabiri, is so enamored of the devices, according to a November *New York Times* dispatch, that when American experts repeatedly showed the rods' failures in test after test, he blamed the results on testers' lack of training. The Iraqi government has purchased 1,500 of the ADE651s from its manufacturer, ATSC Ltd. of the UK, at prices ranging from \$16,000 to \$60,000 each. The suicide bombers who killed 155 in downtown Baghdad on Oct. 25 passed two tons of explosives through at least one ADE651-equipped checkpoint.

LATEST RELIGIOUS MESSAGES

"Bonnet books" are a "booming new sub-category of the romance genre," reported *The Wall Street Journal* in September, describing G-rated Amish love stories that sell well among outside readers but have found an even more avid audience among Amish women themselves. The typical best-seller is by a non-Amish writer, perhaps involving a woman inside the community who falls in love with an outsider. In one book described by the *Journal*, the lovers "actually kiss a couple of times in 326 pages."

More Shariah Weirdness: 1) The radical Islamist group Al Shabaab in Somalia recently began accosting and beating robed women whose bras made their breasts (even though covered) look too provocative. One mother told Reuters in October that police told her that any firmness must be natural and not bra-enhanced. 2) In September, prominent Egyptian scholar Abdul Mouti Bayoumi of al-Azhar University urged the death penalty for people selling virginity-faking devices that make women appear to bleed on their wedding nights. One such gadget, made in China, was openly for sale in Syria for the equivalent of about \$15, according to a September BBC News report.

RECURRING THEMES

The British Health Care Bureaucracy: 1) When social workers praised the progress 10-year-old Devon Taverner was making with her prosthetic leg (necessary because of a birth defect), bureaucrats terminated her disability payments, which instantly made her life harder. For example, the lack of a car allowance means she cannot travel without removing and reattaching the prosthesis each trip. 2) On the other hand, Britain's High Court ruled in September that inmate Denis Roberts, 59, a murderer, was entitled to free surgery to remove a birthmark, and the National Health Service in August granted a free prescription for Viagra to recidivist sex offender Roger Martin, 71, whose latest conviction last year involved an 11-year-old boy.

GOOD NEWS!

1) The epic drought that hit Central Texas this year, causing a 30-foot drop in the water level of Lake Travis near Austin, also helped police solve three stolen-vehicle cases. Of the three exposed at the bottom of the lake in July was one, with key still in the ignition, missing since 1988. 2) Emergency-room doctors writing in the *Archives of Surgery* in September reported that light drinkers of alcohol survived brain injuries better than either nondrinkers or heavy drinkers.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Many mixed-race teenage boys in Cape Town, South Africa, secure their ethnic identity by having several upper front teeth removed, according to an October dispatch in London's *Daily Telegraph*. A University of Cape Town professor said fashion and peer pressure were primary motives for creating the tooth gap, and not the popular myth among outsiders that they do it to facilitate oral sex. (The ritual includes fitting dentures for the gap just in case, to give the boys flexibility.)

What a Difference a Day Makes: 1) Charles Wesley Mumbere, 56, was a longtime nurse's aide at a nursing home in Harrisburg, Pa., until July, when the Ugandan government recognized the separatist Rwenzuru territory founded in 1962 by Mumbere's late father. In October, Mumbere returned to his native country as king of the region's 300,000 subjects. 2) Jigme Wangchuk, 11, was a student at St. Peter's School in Boston when he was enthroned in November by a Buddhist sect in India's Darjeeling district as its high priest, covering territory extending to neighboring Nepal and Bhutan. He will live in seclusion in his monastery, except for contact with Facebook friends he made while in Boston.

Tradition: 1) The town of Waiiau, New Zealand, had once again planned an annual rabbit-carcass-tossing contest, to a chorus of complaints from animal rights activists concerned that children not associate dead animals with fun. (In New Zealand, rabbits are crop-destroying pests, doing an estimated \$16 million in damage annually, but nonetheless, the town canceled the contest.) 2) As the Irish Parliament debated whether to lower the blood-alcohol reading that would earn drivers a DUI charge, legislator Mattie McGrath begged colleagues to keep the current, more generous standards: "[Modest drinking] can make people who are jumpy on the road, or nervous, be more relaxed."

LEAST COMPETENT PEOPLE

1) Walking: Daredevil Scottish stunt bicyclist Danny MacAskill, whose electrifying feats are featured on popular YouTube videos, suffered a broken collarbone in October when he tripped on a curb while out for a walk in downtown Edinburgh. 2) Truck-Driving: Phillip Mathews, 73, whose logging truck is equipped with a tall boom arm to facilitate loading, forgot to lower the arm after finishing a job in Bellevue, Iowa, in October, and when he returned to the highway, the boom proceeded to snap lines on utility poles he passed for the next 12 miles until motorists finally got his attention.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at www.news-of-the-weird.blogspot.com (or www.news-of-the-weird.com).

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com.
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group or nonprofit's
**wishes and
needs** for inclusion
in this year's list of lists.

Contact Meghan by Tue., Dec. 2 at
wishlist@austinchronicle.com.

wish & list

2009

THE CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER Share the holidays with family – your chosen family. This annual tradition is a delicious way to make community. God bless Charlie's. Noon. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.

THANKSGIVING EATS Not interested in cooking this year? Think pilgrims aren't worth the oven time? Amen, brothers and sisters! Check out our list of saintly folk who will be open and serving food: austinchronicle.com/thanksgiving.

THURSDAY, NOV. 26 TO THURSDAY, DEC. 3

calendar

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/COMMUNITY

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

this week's
community
listings

PEOPLE UNITED features Karen Burke and Eric Ruder, who went on a humanitarian convoy to Gaza in July, as well as Sama'a Ashrawi, the son of a Palestinian refugee. 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.

PERSPECTIVES: ASIAN IN AMERICA is part of the Lectures in Art and Diaspora: Asian in America. Curator Karin Higa talks about the forgotten artists of the modern era. 5pm. The Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress, 471-7324. Free. www.blantonmuseum.org.

TAPASGIVING 2009 Not stuffed enough from Thursday's feasting? Bring your semiformal self to this holiday stuffing fest to benefit the Paul Kirby Fund. 8pm. Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226. \$30 suggested donation; volunteer opportunities. charles.j.shumate@uth.tmc.edu, www.asaustin.org.

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS This mobile spay/neuter clinic might be in your neighborhood today. Check www.emancipet.org to find out. Fri.-Sat., check-in begins 8am (first come, first served). 587-SPAY. Free.

NEED FOR SPEED MALL TOUR The popular car-racing game franchise brings its latest release to the people. Just by speeding around the electronic courses, you'll be entered to win one of six Wii systems. Fri.-Sun., Nov. 27-29. Highland Mall, 6001 Airport.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **Planes, Trains & Automobiles** @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Skatalites** Flamingo Cantina
J. Tillman Mohawk
Neon Indian Stubb's
A Sunny Day in Glasgow The Ghost Room
Alejandro Escovedo Continental Club

AUSTIN PRIDE BUILD Join Habitat for Humanity to beef up some humanity (not to mention yr musclz) and makes some new pals as you build a house for a friend. Saturdays, 8am. RSVP for location, 472-8788. Free. www.austinhabitat.org/programs/current/pride.php.

ECOLOGICAL LITERACY DAY Volunteer for habitat restoration work with the Austin Parks Foundation today, followed by a seminar about local ecology.

9am. Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory, 2210 FM 973 S., 972-1960. www.travisaudubon.org.

78704 ARTISAN MARKET has arts and gifts handcrafted by local artisans. Saturdays & Sundays, 11am-6pm. Corner of South Congress & Gibson, 914-3403. www.weare78704.com.

ANTI-FUR FASHION SHOW 'Tis the season for anti-fur protests. Wear your most fashion-forward and fur-free outfit, and show people just how chic you can be without harming animals. 11am. Julian Gold, 1214 W. Sixth. www.actionforanimalsaustin.org.

TINPLATE TRACKERS TRAIN CLUB This open house will have a Lionel model train setup with all the fixin's. Come watch them ride and inspire the next generation to keep this historic hobby alive and well. They might even let you sit behind the controls if you're kind enough to the the tip jar. Saturdays through Dec. 19, 11am-5pm. 117 Lavaca (next to Ill Forks). Donations appreciated. www.trainweb.org/ttat.

BUDDHIST MIND TRAINING from Geshe Tashi, founder of the Foundation of Buddhist Thought. Call for address. Sat. & Sun., Nov. 28 & 29, 1pm. 921-6901. \$25 suggested donation. www.austinfpm.com.

MUSEUM OF EPHEMERATA ANNIVERSARY Celebrate 10 years of oddities, freaks, and generally cool stuff with a curator-led tour of the impermanent collection. 1-4pm. Museum of Natural & Artificial Ephemera, 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org.

WIMBERLEY TRAIL OF LIGHTS OPENING CEREMONY Hit the switch on seven acres of lights designed by more than 100 local businesses. A ribbon cutting, live music, and the arrival of Santa rings in the holiday season. 4-6pm. The EmilyAnn Theatre, 1101 FM 2325, Wimberley, 512/847-6969. Free (donations appreciated). www.emilyann.org.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Scottish Rite offers this interactive take on the holiday classic with original songs for young audiences. Scrooge learns about kindness and sharing and so can your kids. Call or go online for tickets; only a limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Nov. 28-Dec. 22: Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 2pm (except Dec. 20, 11am). Austin Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. \$15 (\$12, kids; \$5, infants). www.srct.org.

AMOA PUBLIC TOURS Check out the art on display with someone who knows more about what's on the walls than you do. Saturdays, 2pm. Austin Museum of Art, 823 Congress, 495-9224. Free with museum admission. www.amoa.org.

RECOMMENDED
YOUNG ONES
GAY PLACES

AUSTIN UNCHAINED DAY Take a break from the Wal-Marts and Targets of the world and shop locally, if just for a day. Remember that money spent locally stays local and benefits your community – something the Austin Independent Business Alliance has been saying since Unchained's inception in 2003. www.ibuyaustin.com.

SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones Rd., 280-1976. Free. www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org.

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS (See Friday.)
NEED FOR SPEED MALL TOUR (See Friday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Grey Gardens @ Alamo Ritz, 4pm
Planes, Trains & Automobiles @ Alamo Ritz, 1:20pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Skatalites Flamingo Cantina
Marduk, Nachtmystium Red 7
Old Canes Emo's
Cursive Mohawk
Alejandro Escovedo Continental Club

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM This week, the CEO of the Texas Observer, Carlton Carl, talks about the state of the news business. Sundays, 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinuu.org.

CAPOEIRA FOR KIDS Does your kid like martial arts, dance, or music? What about all three at the same time? If so, then this free capoeira class is just the ticket. Sundays, 2pm. Orun Center for Cultural Arts, 1401-B Cedar, 731-4584. Free. reirath@gmail.com, www.projectabundantlife.org.

FLYING THEATER MACHINE Parents and their 4- to 10-year-olds work together to see where this winter adventure will lead. Don't forget to bring your suggestions to keep the improv coming. Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$5. www.flyingtheatermachine.com.

PRISM: UT LGBT CATHOLICS Explore what it means to be Catholic and gay, or even gay-friendly. Nonjudgmental, safe, and accepting: 100% open-hearted fellowship. 6pm. University Catholic Church, 2010 University Ave., 476-7351. prism@longhorncatholic.org, www.utcatholic.org.

BY KATE X MESSER

gayplace

THANKS, AUSTIN You're a great town to be gay in. Seriously. Every year, in assessing the things for which I am grateful (rainbows, sunrises, my son, mini ponies, "Gay Place" readers, key lime pie, **Edie Falco**, my mom), living in Austin, Texas, is right up there. Another thing is **Thanksgiving** itself – in Austin, Texas. Because that means Thanksgiving at Charlie's (1301 Lavaca, 474-6481). **Free Thanksgiving at Charlie's**. I cannot recommend this afternoon of fellowship enough. The crew at Charlie's offers a totally free turkey dinner with dressing, taters, gravy, salad, veggies, veggies, rolls, and a buffet of desserts, all in the spirit of com-

munity. It's tough to convey to some younger folks, who perhaps came out in more accepting times – and even to some straight friends who have no idea the impact of coming out or simply being out has on familial holiday randomness – how profoundly heartwarming this gesture of community truly is. Not to mention how darned good looking the serving crew, bartenders, and even the patrons are. Not a bad side dish at all. So thanks, Charlie's, and thanks, again, Austin. If you find you are without family this holiday, come on down and grab you a plate – and more importantly, a place ... your place at the table with family. Happy Thanksgiving, everybody! (See Thursday.)

Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com. Visit austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog.



L - R: A CHRISTMAS CAROL (SEE SATURDAY) | AUSTIN TOROS (SPORTS, P.79) | THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH (ARTS, P.80) | FANTASTIC MR. FOX (FILM, P.86) | DIANNE REEVES (MUSIC, P.94)

Celebrating 5 Years of Toros Basketball



Nov. 27
Toros vs. RGV
7:30pm

**Special performance by Gus Forsyth*
**Cowbell giveaway courtesy of Austin Regional Clinic*

Nov. 28
Toros vs. RGV
7:30pm

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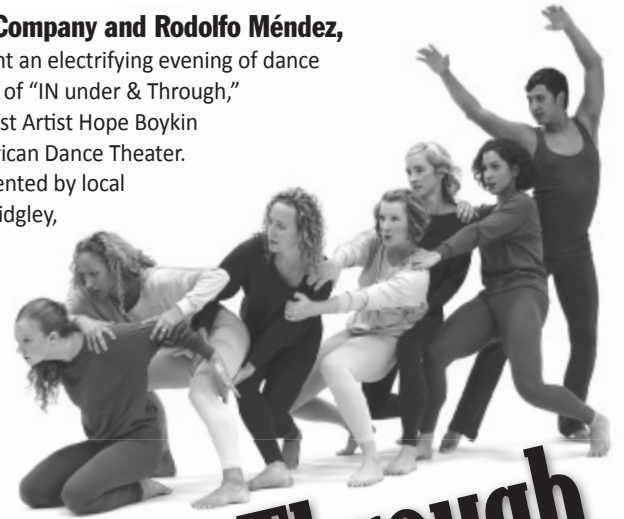
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IN under & Through

Dec. 3 – Dec. 5, 8:00pm
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This project is co-sponsored by Ballet East Dance Company and funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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BY GERALD E. MCLEOD **daytrips**

The **Mineral Wells Fossil Site** may not look like a gold mine, but to anyone who gets a kick out of finding remnants of past geological ages, it's the mother lode. If plans proceed, the former landfill borrow pit may become only the fourth public park in the U.S. where visitors can keep the fossils they find.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

"It's a real treasure and learning experience," says Lee Higginbotham, a member of the Dallas Paleontological Society and one of the many volunteers working to open the site to the public. The excavated site is littered with millions of tiny straw-like rocks that were once on the bottom of the prehistoric sea that covered Texas.

"Everybody who visits finds a fossil," he says. The truth is that everyone finds a pocket full of the petrified tubes.

The story of the fossil pit began more than 300 million years ago when a deep underwater trench spanned this part of Texas. At the bottom lived invertebrates such as crinoids, trilobites, and brachiopods that left their remains in the ancient mud.

Fast-forward to the 1970s when the city began depositing its trash in the field west of town. To cover the refuse, it "borrowed" dirt next to the landfill, creating a large 12-foot-deep pit covering roughly 8 acres. At the time the city didn't realize what bounty it was uncovering.

Soon after the landfill closed in 1993, some fossil hunter discovered the site. The location became a not-so-secret cache among rock hunters to the point where educational groups were quietly making field trips to the very unofficial park. The fossils are very common and aren't worth anything from a scientific standpoint, Higginbotham says. "It's just fun, and you get to keep all you find."

The city didn't realize what it had until it tried to sell the former landfill. Unsurprisingly, there weren't any bids for a hole next to an old dump five miles outside of town. What was surprising to the city council was the Dallas group that asked for access to the site. In the initial conversations the word "trespassing" came up, as did the question, "Who would want to go out there to pick up fossils?" "Every kid who's interested in dinosaurs," Higginbotham answered.

The city finally came around to seeing the value of leaving the site just as it is. The council made a deal with the paleontology community of Texas: If they would help raise the cost of fencing, a parking lot, and restrooms, the city would open the site to the public.

At press time, the Dallas Paleontological Society had raised a little more than half of its \$10,000 share. With any luck, the pit will open to budding Indiana Joneses by the spring of 2010. For information on how you can help, go to www.dallaspaleo.org.

960th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

outoftown

HARVEST ART FEST offers jewelry, pottery, fused glass, paintings, photography, turned wooden vessels, fiber arts, stained glass, leather, sculpture, handmade soap, and clothing from local artists along with fresh produce from local farmers. Fri.-Sat., Nov. 27-28, 10am-5:30pm. 1832 Farmers Market, 1302 Chestnut St., Bastrop, 512/303-9599. www.bastropafta.com/art-fest.

CHRISTMAS IN THE VINEYARD brings vendors together selling handcrafted items with wine available by the glass or the bottle, holiday cooking demos, and Yuletide music. Fri.-Sat., Nov. 27-28. Becker Vineyards, Stonewall, 830/644-2681. www.beckervineyards.com.

DICKENS ON MAIN includes food and drink booths, costumed shopkeepers, and four stages of entertainment. Nov. 27-28 and Dec. 4-5, 6-9pm. Boerne, 830/249-9991. www.dickens-on-main.com.

CHRISTMAS ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW features downtown decorated for the holidays, a visit from Santa, and area artisans selling their handmade items. Fri.-Sat., Nov. 27-28. Downtown, Luling, 512/627-0985. www.lulingcc.org.

LAVENDER LIGHTS engulf the old courthouse as arts & crafts vendors sell their wares on the lawn and musicians play holiday music. Fri.-Sat., Nov. 27-28. Blanco, 830/833-5101. www.blancochamber.com.

ARTS ENCOUNTERS features authors, artists, musicians, filmmakers, bird rescuers, and dinosaur hunters together for an afternoon of interesting conversation on Saturday, and on Sunday Marshall Cunningham, Johann Eyfalls, and Benini bring the fifth year of the art group to a close. Sat.-Sun., Nov. 28-29, 1:30pm. Benini Galleries and Sculpture Ranch, Johnson City, 830/868-5244. Free. www.artscountersatbeninis.com.

TWISTER SUNDAYS Right foot blue! Left hand red! Left right yellow blue green! Yup. Twister. And you can win show tickets if you don't fall over. Sundays, 8pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150.

GRIEFSHARE invites anyone grieving from the loss of a loved one to join. A new grief-related topic is discussed every week. Sundays, 3:30pm. Hope Lutheran Church, 6414 N. Hampton, 926-8574. Free. www.griefshare.org.

MEDITATION CLASSES Sundays, 9:30-11am. Chittamani Buddhist Center, 1918 Bissel, 916-4444. \$10. www.meditationinaustin.org.

SUNDAY SUPER SHOW Samantha DeShante, the Men of Manwatch, dollar drafts, and free burgers (4-8pm)? Where have you been all my life? Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. www.charliesaustin.com.

TIBETAN BUDDHIST TEACHING Longtime student of dharma, Bonnie Baptist, shares her knowledge of calm minds and big hearts. Sundays, noon-2pm. Land of Compassion & Wisdom, 2601 Penny Ln., 921-6901. Free (donations appreciated). www.austinfpm.com.

78704 ARTISAN MARKET (See Saturday.)

BUDDHIST MIND TRAINING (See Saturday.)

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (See Saturday.)

NEED FOR SPEED MALL TOUR (See Friday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) *Lord of the Rings Trilogy Hobbit Feast* @ Alamo Ritz, 10:30am

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) *Cafe Tacuba* La Zona Rosa *Voodoo Glow Skulls* Red 7

MONDAY 30

CHEFS UNDER FIRE Local chefs choose the recipes while finalists turn up the heat to impress the celebrity judges. An interactive cookbook is included with the ticket price. 6:30pm. AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900 University Ave., 404-1900, 877/744-8822. \$30. www.keepercollection.com.

HOSTERIA VERDE THEMED FOODIE BENEFIT Relive the salad days of Las Vegas cool with a wedge salad, surf 'n' turf, bananas Foster, and live music from Suzanna Choffel to help you channel your inner Sinatra. Proceeds go to the Sustainable Food Center. 7-9pm. 801 W. Fifth, 632-8400. \$45. www.hosteriaverde.com.

LONE STAR LAMBIDAS GLBT square dancing in Austin? Heck yeah and yeeee-haw! Nothing square about this group. Every week. Get in on the ground floor, do-si-do. 7pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 W. Anderson, 418-1629. info@lonestarlambdas.org. www.lonestarlambdas.org.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) *Electric Heart: Don Ellis* @ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm *Me and Orson Welles Premiere* @ Paramount, 7pm *My Life to Live* @ Texas Union Theatre, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) *Little Dragon* Emo's *Jackson Browne* Bass Concert Hall

TUESDAY 01

WORLD AIDS DAY CONFERENCE Explore public memory, human rights, documentation, and representation as the global HIV/AIDS pandemic affects them. 9am-3pm. Texas Union Texas Governors' Room (UNB 3.116), 232-4857. Free. humanrights@law.utexas.edu, www.rapportcenter.org, www.faceaids.org.

WINTER TALES Stories and songs from around the world help warm you up for the holiday season. 3:30pm. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill Rd., 974-9820. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

WHERE THE WATER MEETS THE SKY SCREENING Zambian doc about the plight of young women orphaned by AIDS. 4:45pm. Student Services Building, Glen Maloney Room (SSB G1.310), 471-5765. Free. ajsalcado@mail.utexas.edu, www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs, www.faceaids.org.

ARC OF THE ARTS HOLIDAY PARTY Get in the holiday spirit with sugary treats, punch, and a selection of original art and gift cards up for sale. The money helps provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities. 5pm. Arc of the Arts Studio, 6717 Burnet Rd. www.arcofthecapitalarea.org.

ARTS IN THE BLACK DIASPORA The John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies presents this lecture. 5pm. Doty Fine Arts Library, Rm. 3.200, 471-1784. Free. stephanielang@austin.utexas.edu, www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/caaas.

'AARON... ALBEIT A SEX HERO' DVD RELEASE Drug runners, tarantulas, old lady hostages, rattlesnakes, what more could you want? Bunnies? Come celebrate this DVD release from the maker of *Angora Ranch*. 7pm. East Village Cafe. Free. paul@sillybunnypictures.com.

HOSTERIA VERDE THEMED FOODIE BENEFIT Get that midriff moving with music from DJ Aaron Montez, belly dancing from the pros at Sabaya Belly Dance, and a Middle Eastern feast. Take a breather like royalty on one of the platform beds. Proceeds go to the Sustainable Food Center. 7-9pm. 801 W. Fifth, 632-8400. \$45. www.hosteriaverde.com.

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT BENEFIT Help get books to inmates by attending this night of dinner, drinks, and music from the Bright Light Social Hour (winner of the Dell Lounge Sound and the Jury Competition). It's either day five of Thanksgiving leftovers or this. Choose wisely. 7pm. Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226. \$10 suggested donation.

SIERRA CLUB MEETING This month's meeting features presenters with the know-how to grow your green business. 7pm. Texas State Teachers Association, 316 W. 12th, 877/275-8782. Free. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.

WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE A multifaith service to honor and remember our fallen and to renew commitment to the surviving. 7pm. Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 100 E. 27th, 459-5883. Free. roger@thecarecommunities.org, www.thecarecommunities.org.

KOOP = QUEER Tweak your knobs (or Heath and Stephen's): 91.7FM. It's *OutCast*, for and about the Central Texas LGBT population. You might even hear a Gay Placer on the air now and again ... or every week. Tuesdays, 6-7pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org, www.outcastaustin.com.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) *Adrift in Tokyo* @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm *Shadows in Paradise* @ Alamo Draffhouse South, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) *Metric* La Zona Rosa *Whigs* Emo's *Cage the Elephant* Antone's *Del tha Funkie Homosapien* Aces Lounge

WEDNESDAY 02

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR WOMEN Join Friendship International and women from all over the world for education in the ways of vocabulary, conjugation, and so on. 9:45am. First Life Center of First Baptist Church, 306 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, 512/246-1958. Free (child care available for a small fee). auldofus@austin.rr.com, www.fbcr.org.

WINTER TALES See Tuesday for more info. 10:15am. Manchaca Branch Library, 5500 Manchaca Rd., 974-9820. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

HIGH NOON TALKS Every month, hear a less-than-often-told tale about the history of Texas. This month, Marcia Kaylakie talks about the histories one can patch together from quilts. Noon-1pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free with admission to museum. www.thestoryoftexas.com.



TINPLATE TRACKERS TRAIN CLUB (SEE SATURDAY)

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST See the edible architectural creations firsthand surrounded by carolers, treats, kids' activities, and a tree-lighting. Call or go online to enter the contest. 5pm. *Barton Creek Resort & Spa, 8212 Barton Club, 329-4009. Free. www.bartoncreek.com/special_packages.*

SIGNING SANTA Hearing-impaired children are invited to get their pictures taken with Ol' Saint Nick and receive a small gift, compliments of North Austin Optimist. 6pm. *Barton Creek Square mall, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 451-8355. Free. www.naopt.com.*

HOSTERIA VERDE THEMED FOODIE BENEFIT Nothing says an Austin benefit like tacos and Lucha Libre wrestling. An entire ring will be moved into the space for your enjoyment while you sip on cocktails or hit up one of the taco stands or paletas carts. Proceeds go to the Sustainable Food Center. 7-10pm. 801 W. Fifth, 632-8400. \$45. www.hosteriaverde.com.

DISCO PLAGUE Gretchen Phillips' positively contagious dance band. Butch County opens. 10pm. *Chain Drive, 504 Willow, 480-9017.*

TEXAS NORML MEETING convenes monthly to discuss the latest developments in marijuana-law reform. And since it's Good Vibes Wednesday why not stick around for live reggae? *First Wednesdays, 8pm. Flamingo Cantina, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336. Free. www.texasnorml.org.*

BROWN BAG PARTY A toy party with games and prizes. You know, "toys," as in the kind you might like to carry out in a brown bag. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Sister's Edge II, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010.*

CREATIVE SPIRIT UCC SPIRIT TALK This progressive community of faith meets as the spirit moves, now midweek. *Wednesdays, 5:45pm. Romeo's, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 527-4455. cheatham@austin.rr.com, www.creativespiritucc.info, creativespiritucc.wordpress.com.*

OAK SPRINGS CHESS CLUB Beginner and advanced chess players alike, ages 8 and older, are invited to give their brains a workout. Boards and pieces will be supplied, just bring your desire to check. *Wednesdays, 5pm. Oak Springs Library, 3101 Oak Springs Dr., 974-9920. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Adrift in Tokyo @ Alamo Ritz, 4:10pm
Humble Pie @ Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm
Road House @ Alamo Ritz, 7, 10pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Shelley King CD Release Cactus Cafe
Skinny Puppy Emo's

THURSDAY 03

CONCORDIA SPEAKER SERIES

LUNCHEON Bee Morehead, executive director of Texas Impact, discusses environmental stewardship as a faith practice. 11:30am. *Concordia University, Bldg. A, 11400 Concordia University Dr. Free. www.concordia.edu/speakerseries.*

COMMUNITY INPUT ON AISD BUDGET It might not be the best move to air the school district's budget concerns during this time of rampant consumerism and shrinking wallets, but the public is invited to learn about and discuss the future finances of your kid's education. 6pm. *William B. Travis High School, 1211 E. Oltorf, 414-2323. www.austinisid.org/inside/budget.*

BIARIATRIC SURGERY SEMINAR RSVP and learn about the extreme end of the weight-loss spectrum. 6:30pm. *St. David's Medical Center, 919 E. 32nd, 544-5433. Free. www.stdavids.com.*

LAINEY'S BALLOT BLOWOUT Celebrate the first day to apply to be on the Democratic primary ballot with a man soon to be on that ballot, Laine Melnick. Surround yourself with Central Texas politicians and the sounds of the Asylum Street Spankers. 6:30pm. *Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 799-0626. \$20 (\$15, advance). www.laineyforcongress.com.*

TUMMY TALK Learn tips to a healthy pregnancy from ob-gyns and ask your own questions. A baby-healthy meal will be provided. Call to RSVP. 6:30pm. *St. David's South Austin Hospital Auditorium, 901 W. Ben White, 416-6114. Free.*

CARING FOR AGING PARENTS DISCUSSIONS This series hosts an expert every week tackling tough family decisions. 7pm. *Faith Presbyterian Church, 1314 E. Oltorf, 444-1314. Free.*

WHISKY FESTIVAL Participants can sample roughly 50 single-malt Scotch whiskies from all over Scotland accompanied by an hors d'oeuvres buffet. Whisky connoisseurs will be on hand to ensure that you swirl and sniff like the pros. 7pm. *Opal Divine's Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress Ste. K, 707-0237. \$40-45. www.opaldivines.com.*

FIRST THURSDAY Music, food, and shopping. *From the river, south on South Congress. Free.*

LA PASTORELA The Austin Latino Theater Alliance presents this comedy about a group of shepherds trying to reach Bethlehem while savvy devils attempt to thwart their progress. In Spanish with English subtitles. *Dec. 3-19, Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 241-9799. \$12; \$8, students and seniors; Thursdays by donation. www.lapastorela.org.*

SISTER SHOWGIRLS ON THE EDGE What a capital idea! The Capital City Showgirls: Goldie Haynes, Denise Mykles, and Simone Riviera dauntlessly flaunt it at Austin's new lezzie bar. *Thursdays, 11pm. Sister's Edge II, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010.*

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (See Saturday.)



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COURTESY OF SCOT BRINKLEY

WIMBERLEY TRAIL OF LIGHTS (SEE SATURDAY)



HOSTERIA VERDE
THEMED FOOD BENEFIT
(SEE WEDNESDAY)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Drift in Tokyo @ Alamo Ritz, 4:10pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Bowling for Soup Emo's
Tommy Castro Saxon Pub
Dianne Reeves One World Theatre
Monahans Mohawk

now ...

ACCESS GALLERY HOLIDAY SHOW
Support VSA arts of Texas and local artists with disabilities when you purchase any of the gift-worthy items from more than 20 artists. *Through Jan. 9. Access Gallery, 3701 Guadalupe #103, 454-9912. Free. www.vsatx.org.*

BROWN SANTA needs volunteers to help receive, prepare, and deliver toys and food to Travis County families this holiday season. If you'd like to participate, call 24-SANTA. Brown Santa is also accepting donations of nonperishable food items, books, unwrapped toys (new or gently used), and cash, which you may drop off at the warehouse or mail to: *Brown Santa, PO Box 207, Austin, TX 78767-0207.* (You may also donate online at www.brownsanta.org.) *Brown Santa Warehouse, 15400 Long Vista #101.*

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY The city of Austin wants to know what you love and hate about our fair town. Don't hold anything back; that would be counterproductive. It's not just a complaining contest though; offer suggestions for the future. Go to www.imagineaustin.net/survey.htm to participate.

FAMILYLAB provides a hands-on, experimental art experience for kids and parents. You can play and

make your own take-home art projects. *During regular museum hours. AMOA, 823 Congress, 495-9224. \$5 (free, children under 12). www.amoa.org.*

FINANCIAL COACHING Mondays through Saturdays, individuals earning less than \$25,000 and families earning less than \$50,000 can get free, one-on-one help reducing debt, fixing credit, and clarifying other money matters. *Foundation Communities, 3036 S. First #200, 610-4026. financialcoach@foundcom.org, www.foundcom.org.*

FREE COUNSELING FOR WOMEN VETERANS
Women interested in mental health counseling from the YWCA should call or go online for more information. 326-1222. www.ywcaustin.org.

HUMAN POTENTIAL CENTER This South Austin nonprofit has oodles of classes and workshops – from yoga and Reiki to art classes and dream interpretation – just waiting to maximize your potential. Check out the website for more info. *Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.*

LAND GRANTS OF THE TEXAS REVOLUTION The latest exhibit, "A Hero's Reward," displays artifacts and historical documents that illuminate how soldiers of different races and backgrounds were compensated for their participation in Texas' struggle for independence. *Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. Free. www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.*

LITTLE HELPING HANDS is a nonprofit that aims to get children engaged in volunteerism. Check out www.littlehelpinghands.org, and see what age-appropriate opportunities are out there for your civic-minded youngster.

EMPOWERMENT (QBOYZ) OUTREACH COORDINATOR Qualified job-seeking, GBQ-friendly, social network candidates should go to the ASA site for more info to apply right now. www.asaustin.org, www.qboyz.org.

Kate X Messer (Gay Place):
gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Mark Fagan (Sports):
gameplans@austinchronicle.com.

James Renovitch (everything else):
calendar@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, 454-5766 or brenner@austinchronicle.com.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

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Send submissions to the appropriate writer (see below). Mail the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

ties. *Through Jan. 2, 6-10pm. 9561 N. I-35, New Braunfels (two miles south of Tanger Outlet Mall), 830/743-1293. \$20/car. www.santaranch.net.*

VOLLEYBALL AT 'BOUT TIME Team play on Wednesday and Sunday nights, and there are pickup games every day. *'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. www.bouttimeaustin.com.*

WASTEWATER AVERAGING The Austin Water Utility has begun its annual wastewater averaging cycle, which means your billing rates will depend on your usage over the next few months. If you weren't conserving already, now's the time to do it and save money for all of next year. Go to find out more or learn the specific dates for your averaging.

WIMBERLEY TRAIL OF LIGHTS has seven acres of lights designed by more than 100 local businesses. Roast a weenie or a marshmallow before jumping on the Jingle Express with the kids. Live entertainment and special events occur throughout the holiday season. *Open daily (weather permitting), 6-9pm. The EmilyAnn Theatre, 1101 FM 2325, Wimberley, 512/847-6969. Free (donations appreciated). www.emilyann.org.*

& later

ALLDAY WITH KNT Ring in your happy Chriamahankwanzakah in style with the most stylish of style faeries: Rebecca Havemeyer and those hot, studly Santa's elves, Kings N Things. *Fri., Dec. 4, 9pm. Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. \$7-10 sliding scale. www.kingsnthings.org.*

CHAMPAGNE & CAROLS Tickets must be purchased in advance if you want to enjoy the holiday cheer, holiday food, holiday songs, and more. *Sat., Dec. 5, 6pm. Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel, 478-2335. \$25. www.nchmuseum.org.*

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY Learn about the many functions and operating procedures of the Austin Police Department. The next session starts *March 2*. For more information or an application, visit the APD website, www.cityofaustin.org/police. 974-5941. dennis.farris@ci.austin.tx.us.

GET READY TO SWING IT, DARLIN' In a most sophisticated fashion, of course, dear, it's time for Holiday Swing. Buff up your oxfords and get ready to cut a rug to the sounds of the Sentimental Journey Orchestra and the Studebakers. Perhaps you'd like to win a set of tix? See the Gay Place Blog for more details! *Sat., Dec. 5, 7pm dance lessons, 8pm party begins. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 735-8000. \$60 (\$55, advance). www.projecttransitions.org/events/holiday-swing.*

OUT IN AUSTIN SPEED DATING FOR LADIES Can this Dallas company hook you up? Now registering 10 femme and 10 butch women, recommended ages 21-35. No match? Next one's on them. Tell 'em Gay Place sent ya. *Fri., Dec. 4, 6:30pm. Location revealed upon registration, 469/235-0644. \$15. outindallaspeeddating@yahoo.com, www.outindallaspeeddating.com.*

PROMISED LAND Quoth: "One gay boy's search for love, liberation, and a working toilet in the Appalachian woods." on stage, for your edification. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 4-5 & 11-12, 8pm. The New Movement, 1819 Rosewood, 921-0746. \$5-10 donation. notoriousr2@gmail.com.*

UPCOMING FOODIES Foodies: la lez e-mail-based social network shall, in December, present Lynyrd's Skin, a White Trash Christmas Costume Party; Dolly Bird at the Aviary Lounge; and a White Elephant Holiday Gift Exchange. Wanna know more? E-mail Kitty to get on the list. *Lynyrd: Fri., Dec. 5; Dolly: Sat., Dec. 12. beatsagogo@aol.com, www.foodiesaustin.com, www.aviarydecor.com.*

URBAN FARM BICYCLE TOUR Edible Austin and the Bicycle Sport Shop invite families to jump on their bikes and take rider-friendly routes to farms and community gardens all over town. Tour stops include children's hands-on gardening activities, henhouse tours, farm tours, and samplings. Tours leave from three spots: *Bicycle Sport Shop, 517 S. Lamar; Sunset Valley Farmers Market, 3200 Jones; Austin Farmers' Market, Fourth & Guadalupe.* Proceeds benefit Urban Roots youth-development program. Tickets can be purchased online. *Sat., Dec. 5, 10am. \$25 (\$45/family). www.bicyclesportshop.com.*



Awww yeah, that's how we do!

BY NICK BARBARO **soccer watch**

Trying to make sense out of the chaos that is the **United Soccer Leagues**, the truth is, no one really knows how events will shake out. The breakaway teams of the Team Owners Association announced Monday that they've lured two more USL franchises to their side and formed the **North American Soccer League** (evoking the New York Cosmos-led league of the 1970s). Meanwhile, the **Austin Aztex** are holding firm in the **USL First Division**, with Puerto Rico, Rochester, Portland, maybe Cleveland, and possible expansion teams in New York, Detroit, and/or Ottawa. Further complicating matters, USL-1 Charleston says they'll drop down to USL-2 next year, and USL-2 Baltimore has apparently defected to the NASL. So if you're keeping score: Of the 11 USL-1 teams from last season, five are with the NASL, four or five are still with USL-1, and one's in the USL-2. Overall, NASL appears to have nine teams to USL-1's eight. Of course, that's as of Tuesday; it could all have shifted again by the time you read this.

The good news: Whatever happens, the **Aztex** will surely come out of this just fine. They're going about their business, scouting and preparing for next year – even if it's not totally clear who they'll be playing against. (In a related note, Austin ISD's **locker-room renovations at House Park** appear to be getting under way this week, clearing the way for the Aztex's much-anticipated move Downtown.)

The **St. Edward's women's** season ended Friday with a penalty-kick shoot-out loss to West Texas A&M in the NCAA Sweet 16. It's a tough way to lose – the Hilltoppers reportedly pretty well controlled the match and didn't allow a shot on goal all day. They finish up at 16-3-3; congrats on a great season. **Texas A&M** is out as well, losing to Florida State 2-1 in overtime; there will be no Texas teams in the **Women's College Cup in College Station** Dec. 4 and 6.

The Division III Men's & Women's Final Fours are that same weekend in **San Antonio**: Dec. 4-5 at Blossom Soccer Stadium, hosted by **Trinity University**. Too bad the Trinity women won't be there; they lost their perfect season in a PK shoot-out in the quarterfinals.

Real Salt Lake beat the L.A. Galaxy on penalty kicks in the **MLS Cup Final** Sunday, becoming the first team to win the league championship after having a losing record in the regular season.

European Champions League: **Arsenal** in, **Liverpool** out in this week's next-to-last games in the group stage. **Sevilla, Lyon**, and **Fiorentina** also advanced to the knockout round Tuesday, and **Barcelona** served notice with a convincing 2-0 win over Inter Milan. Eight more games Wednesday; group play ends Dec. 9.

sports

BY MARK FAGAN listings

AUSTIN TOROS

It's a new season (along with a new court) for the Toros as they welcome the Rio Grande Valley Vipers to town for two this weekend and then the Tulsa 66ers next Tuesday and Wednesday. The Toros retain their affiliation with the San Antonio Spurs and welcome back head coach Quin Snyder. With the sixth pick in the '09 draft, the Toros selected forward Alonzo Gee, who averaged 15 points and seven rebounds during his senior year for Alabama. Another notable acquisition is forward Curtis Jerrells, who was a standout player for Baylor. You might want to catch Gee and Jerrells with the Toros before the inevitable call-up to the bigs. Familiar faces returning from last year's squad include Ryan Bright, Carldeell Johnson, and Dwayne Jones. Vs. Rio Grande Valley: **Fri.-Sat., Nov. 27-28, 7:30pm**. Vs. Tulsa: **Tue.-Wed., Dec. 1-2, 7:30pm**. *Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 236-8333. \$8-23 (more for courtside seats).* www.nba.com/dleague/austin.

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **TEXAS STARS** The first-place Stars are as hot as a billy goat in a pepper patch as they welcome sixth-place division rival Milwaukee Admirals to Cedar Park. Vs. Milwaukee: **Fri., Nov. 27, 7:30pm**. *Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/GO-STARS. \$9-50.* www.texasstars.hockey.com.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Rogers State University: **Mon., Nov. 30, 7pm.**

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Volleyball Vs. Kansas: **Sat., Nov. 28, 6:30pm**. *Gregory Gym, 2101 Speedway. \$4-10.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Oral Roberts: **Tue., Dec. 1, 7pm**. *Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$8-16.* **Men's Basketball** Vs. USC: **Thu., Dec. 3, 8pm**. *Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$7-45.* **Men's and Women's Swimming** Texas Invitational: **Thu.-Sat., Dec. 3-5, all day**. *Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr. www.texasports.com.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Southwestern University/Austin College Classic: Vs. LaGrange College: **Fri., Nov. 27, 5pm**. Vs. Otterbein College: **Sat., Nov. 28, 5pm**. www.southwesternpirates.com.

TEXAS STATE Men's Basketball Vs. Texas A&M-International: **Tue, Dec. 1, 7pm**. *Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. www.txstatebobcats.com.*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. Tarleton State: **Sat., Nov. 28, 2pm**. www.stedwards.edu/athletics.

RECREATION & FITNESS

LET'S GO PARAGLIDING Instructor Gary Leach has all the knowledge you'll need to enter the awe-inspiring world of paragliding. **Tue., Dec. 1, 7pm**. *REI Round Rock, 201 University Oaks Blvd. #1100, 512/833-9361. Free.* www.paraglidetexas.com.

HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS Learn more about Austin's most active outdoors and social club. More than 40 events featured each month, including hiking, camping, biking, kayaking, sports leagues, socials, and more. **Mon., Nov. 30, 6:30pm**. *Opal Divine's at Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress Ste. K-100, 383-1191. Free.* www.hillcountryoutdoors.com.

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Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, at brenner@austinchronicle.com.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

★ **THUNDERCLOUD SUBS TURKEY TROT** This Thanksgiving tradition features a 5-mile run, 1-mile walk, and a Stepping Stone Kid's K. All race proceeds will benefit Caritas of Austin. More than 13,000 people are expected to participate. **Thu., Nov. 26, 9:30am**. *Waterloo Park, 403 E. 15th, 479-8805.* www.thundercloud.com.

CRITICAL MASS Bicyclists have been "subverting the paradigm" in Austin since October '93. Let's keep it civil, everybody. Held on the last Friday of each month. **Fri., Nov. 27, 5pm**. *Riders meet at the UT West Mall (Guadalupe between 22nd & 23rd).* www.critical-mass.info/austin.html.

RUN LIKE THE WIND includes a 5K fun walk or run (with or without well-behaved dog) and distance runs from three to 24 hours, including relays. This event benefits the Schrod Training Fund, which helps low-income dog owners affordably train and keep their dogs. **Sat., Dec. 5, 7:30am-noon**. *Lee Mannix Center for Canine Behavior, 6901 Old Bee Caves Rd., 626-2763. \$30-300.* www.schrodifund.org/RunLikeTheWind.htm.

WILD BASIN WILDERNESS has a plethora of available walks, hikes, and more. www.wildbasin.org.

AUSTIN CYCLING ASSOCIATION Check website for fun biking adventures. www.austincycling.org/rides.html.

UPCOMING

3M HALF MARATHON & RELAY Runners will enjoy this fast, downhill race, the city's third longest distance run. Run as an individual or two-person relay team. Proceeds benefit Any Baby Can of Austin. **Sun., Jan. 24, 2010, 6:45am**. *Starting line is near 9500 Stonelake Blvd., close to Baby Acapulco's, 984-7223. \$60 for individuals, \$100 for teams, prices increase after Dec. 31.* www.3mhalfmarathon.com.

MILESTONES WALK: CURESEARCH CONQUER CHILDHOOD CANCER Join the walk or donate to help fight childhood cancer. The festivities include prizes, music, food, and fun family activities. **Sat., Dec. 15, 9am**. *Hill Country Galleria, 12700 Hill Country Blvd., 338-1055. Donations accepted.* www.milestoneswalk.org.



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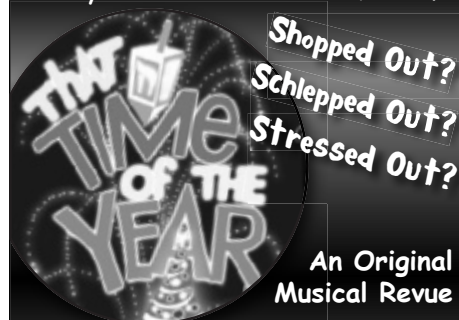
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arts listings



The Skin of Our Teeth

The Vortex, through Dec. 5
Running time: 2 hr

Thornton Wilder, author of *Our Town*, a perennial high school favorite, penned *The Skin of Our Teeth* way back in 1942 and won the Pulitzer Prize for it. It certainly wasn't the first play

to break through the imaginary fourth wall created by the early 20th century American penchant for verisimilitude and realism, but it wouldn't be surprising to find that it was one of the first plays to actually have characters walk through that fourth wall and interact with the audience.

Finding that it was one of the first to perceive history as occurring in cycles wouldn't be surprising either. Wilder seems to see historical events all happening at once, as the play opens in the suburban New Jersey home of the Antrobuses. Mr. Antrobus, the inventor of the wheel and the alphabet, among other things, is having trouble getting across the Hudson to his home because of an encroaching glacier; meanwhile, Mrs. Antrobus is busy dealing with the mammoth and the dinosaur who want to come in from the cold, not to mention all the vagrants, including Homer and Moses, who want warmth and food, and her two children: Henry, who has a troubling mark on his forehead and has gotten into trouble for killing his brother, and Gladys, who refuses to maintain propriety by keeping her skirt down.

As you can probably tell, Wilder utilizes a comedic style, but his intent is deadly serious. Antrobus can't keep his hands off women, no matter how dedicated and loving his wife might be. Gladys can't keep from getting pregnant, no matter how often her mother tries to keep her pure. And the people of the world, it seems, can't keep themselves from persecuting, killing, and committing genocide over and over again.

One thing that director Norman Blumensaadt gets very right in this Different Stages production is the style of Wilder's play. From the very beginning, when the announcer comes out and delivers the News Events of the World, accompanied by a PowerPoint slideshow on a screen above his head, the tempo is breakneck, and it only increases when Amy Lewis, as the seductive maid Sabina, enters. The actors as a group seem to approach their roles as caricatures, which only serves to heighten the comic feel of the production.

But while this quick-tempoed, stereotypical style serves the play well, it also seems to carry over into those moments when the actors have to step out of the play and deal with various "real" problems Wilder has scripted into the production, like an actor not wanting to play a certain scene. Michael Hankin as Mr. Antrobus is most successful in playing these dual realities. His Mr. Antrobus is a narcissistic blowhard of the highest order, and when Hankin is required to step out of the reality of the play and into the reality of the production, he looks and sounds like a normal, albeit frustrated, everyday actor. While seeing both sides of Wilder's cyclical story played effectively would have been nice, it's still nicer to see Different Stages revive yet another classic, influential, important play, especially one so concerned with a world that seems always so close to slipping over the edge of oblivion.

— Barry Pineo

theatre

OPENING

THAT TIME OF THE YEAR Here's a musical revue of original Christmas songs, Chanukah songs, New Year's songs, and more from the noteworthy pens of Laurence Holzman and Felicia Needleman, as directed by David Dunlap and performed by the stalwarts of Sam Bass Community Theatre. *Nov. 27-Dec. 19. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. 600 N. Lee St., Round Rock, 512/244-0440. \$10-15. www.sambasstheatre.org.*

TUNA DOES VEGAS Joe Sears and Jaston Williams take their popular cast of characters from "the third smallest town in Texas" to Sin City for a weekend of wedding-chapel hijinks, casino-based capers, and more. Directed by Ed Howard, this is a show to set you laughing all the way to Boxing Day and beyond. *Nov. 27-29. Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2 & 7:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$26-57.50. www.tunadoesvegasthetour.com.*

ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY Zach's 16th annual Motown-flavored revue of holiday tunes and jingle-bell terpsichore features the usual hot lineup of golden-throated divas strutting their yuletide stuff amid a brand new set design. Directed by Dave Steakley; recommended to toss a little tinsel onto your soul's barest tree. *Nov. 27-Dec. 27. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-45. www.zachscott.com.*

THE SANTALAND DIARIES This music-spiced staging of David Sedaris' popular tale of a reluctant Macy's Christmas Elf is directed by Dave Steakley and features an effervescent **Espie Randolph** as the child-besieged Crumpet. Here's a thoroughly enjoyable performance that goes beyond its source material and will make you believe in the joy of holiday cynicism all over again. *Nov. 27-Jan. 10. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-45. www.zachscott.com.*

SISTER'S CHRISTMAS CATECHISM Return, if you will, to your parochial-school days and giggle like a heresiarch as Sister presents the story of the Nativity as if it were a crime investigation: *What happened to the Magi's gold?* [Your editor's theory: That wasn't actually Melchior; it was Danny Ocean with a long beard.] Cute Catholic comedy, on tour and in your Long Center for the holidays. *Dec. 1-20. Tue.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 3pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100. \$27-72. www.thelongcenter.org.*

THE DIONYSIUM This month's showcase of intellectual and aesthetic delights features a debate (Resolved: That it is possible for some art to be objectively bad), a recitation of the poetry of William Carlos Williams, a somewhat profane humorous sketch performed by Michael Barnett and Wayne Alan Brenner, Ms. Erin Keyfitz playing her musical saw, and the redoubtable Lance Myers introducing a fine animated cartoon. All wrapped up in a package of incidental badinage by that red-headed fiscal conservative L.B. Deyo, with musical accompaniment by Graham fuckin' Reynolds on the vintage Drafthouse organ. Recommended! *Huzzah! Wed., Dec. 2, 7pm. Alamo Drafthouse South, 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262. \$8. www.dionysium.com.*

DIONYSUS IN '69 Because those Rude Mechanicals don't already have enough on their plates of brilliance, or so it would seem, they've decided to re-create, every now and again, pivotal events of theatre and its ilk from years past. In this first instance, it's a revitalization of what NYC director Richard Schechner's Performance Group made of Euripides' *Bacchae* back in '69. It'll be interesting to see how this wild, nudity-enhanced spectacle plays out in today's more mediated environment. Because the Rudes pull no punches, because the stage is their mutable bedlam, it'll be (at least) interesting to experience the impact regardless of meta-theatrical context. *N.B.: No one younger than 18 admitted without a parent or guardian. Thu.-Sun., 8pm, Dec. 3-20. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$12-25. www.rudemechs.com.*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 11 issue is Monday, Nov. 30.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy. brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical. dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor. brenner@austinchronicle.com.

PETRA'S PECADO Teatro Vivo presents the return of this heartwarming bilingual holiday comedy, written and directed by Rupert Reyes, about tortilla-maven Petra being chosen to direct her church's annual play about the Virgen de Guadalupe. *Dec. 3-20. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-6379. \$16-21 (\$13, students, seniors; pay what you wish, Thursdays). www.salvagevanguard.org.*

CLOSING

101 DALMATIANS Yes, it's the stage musical of the feature-length cartoon of the original story by Dodie Smith, here directed by Jerry Zaks and featuring the acclaimed Rachel York as the pelt-coveting Cruella de Vil. There are some live dogs in this thing, naturally; let's see how that works out, performance-wise, shall we? Catch the fun via early reservations if you can. *Through Nov. 29. Fri.-Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 1pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100. \$27-74. www.thelongcenter.org.*

ONGOING

INSPECTING CAROL Down south a bit, you can catch this metatheatrical comedy about a troupe performing Dickens' *Christmas Carol*. Directed by Dawn Youngs. *Through Dec. 13. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Wimberley Playhouse, 450 Old Kyle Rd., Wimberley. www.wimberleyplayers.org.*

THE MOUSETRAP Someone has committed murder at a snowbound country inn; whoever could it be, d'you suppose? Austin Playhouse presents this classic Agatha Christie mystery, directed by Don Toner. *Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Note: No show on Nov. 26. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-28 (half price, students). www.austinplayhouse.com.*

LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR This seldom-seen Neil Simon comedy is a behind-the-scenes look at the making of a 1950s television variety show. Directed by Andy Berkovsky. *Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. \$15-25 (pay what you can, Thursdays). www.citytheatreAustin.org.*

SICK Zayd Dohrm's twisted comedy brings us an urban family of germophobes who have severe allergies to everything from Cheez-Whiz and cleaning supplies to city air. What do they do when their paterfamilias brings home a (likely germ-ridden) grad student? Directed by Mark Pickell for Capital T Theatre, as if having helmed *Killer Joe* and *I Heart Wal-Mart* isn't sufficient for one year. *Through Dec. 5. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$15-25. www.capitalt.org.*

BOHEMIAN COWBOY Raymond King Shurtz is directed by Kurt Brungardt in this son's re-creation of his honky-tonkin' father's weird-ass legacy: Live music, mystery, and habitual disappearing acts. Like, gonesville, man. *Through Dec. 20. Tue.-Wed. & Sun., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$18 (\$16, seniors, students). www.hydeparktheatre.com.*

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH Here is Thornton Wilder's classic about the survival of the Antrobus family through the harrowing calamities of this complex life. This rendition of the Pulitzer-winning script features a large cast and is directed by Norman Blumensaadt for Different Stages. See review, left. *Through Dec. 5. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Note: No performance on Nov. 26. Extra show: Wed., Dec. 2, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$15-30. www.main.org/diffstages.*

AUDITIONS

FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER This macabre masterpiece (thank you, Mr. Poe) will be presented by Weird City Theatre in February. Cold readings from script; bring headshot and résumé. E-mail for appointment. 745-2636. www.weirdcitytheatre.com.

BURIED CHILD City Theatre will present Sam Shepard's drama of dysfunctional familiarity and the deterioration of the American Dream. They're casting all roles, to be directed by Andy Berkovsky. Prepare a one-minute monologue, bring headshot and résumé. Call for appointment. *City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. www.citytheatreAustin.org.*

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. Daily, 7pm-1am. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Mark "The Chinaman" Britten The nationally syndicated star of radio airwaves returns to Cap City with his plethora of spot-on impersonations (Eddie Vedder! Garth Brooks! Dave Matthews!) and his unbridled gambits of humor, likely going all crane style – uh, Bob Crane style? – on your funny bone. **Doug Mellard** opens. *Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm, Nov. 27-28.*

Matt Bearden He's local, but he's funnier than most of the touring comics in the industry. He tours, but the homeboy prefers to stick to Texas. He can make you snort a vodka collins right out your nose with a single witticism, and any dick joke he might tell will likely include contextual data about the psycho-emotional ramifications of prostate microsurgery. Bottom line, brothers and sisters: *This fucker will make you laugh.* And **Shannon Paul** dares to open. *Dec. 1-5. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

Cap City Open Mic Hey, it could be you up there slaying your friends and neighbors as they've slain you. *Sundays, 8pm. Free with college ID.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. www.coldtownetheater.com.

This week: Eye for an iPhone is a brand new Second City-style sketch show led by the talented and happily hirsute **Dave Buckman**. *Fri., 8pm. Punchline* Stand-up comedy, ColdTowne style: Some of Austin's best. *Fri., 10pm. Boy Toy* presents a free show, featuring the rom-com musical antics of **Le Sexy**. *Sat., 7pm. Stool Pigeon* features a local celeb of sorts jump-starting the night with a thrice-told tale. *Sat., 8pm. Cage Match* Two improv teams go all lucha libre on each other for your grins and giggles. *Sat., 9pm. Stone Cold Improv* The house troupe gets funky, now with **Nice Astronaut**. *Sat., 10pm. The Late Night Show* features **Midnight Society** with **Unfurled**. *Sat., 11pm. Improv City* is a free show with **Roosevelt's Legs**, the sketch duo **Your Terrific Neighbors**, and those **ColdTowne All-Stars**. *Sun., 7pm. Sarah Seven and the Longform Jam* features another free show; this one, from the Gorgeous Ladies of ColdTowne Kingdom (GLOCK). *Sun., 8:30pm.*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.estersfollies.com.

Esther's Thanksgiving Cornucopia of Comedy The most popular troupe in town brings its funny to blast away that post-turkey tryptophan or whatever the hell the stuff is that's doldrumming your system. Catch **Ray Anderson's** magic, the new musically presidential production of "The Baracky Horror Healthcare Show," and Rick Perry and Kay Bailey Hutchison duking it out in the "Texas Governor's Race." And everybody's favorite hunk of down-home Texas – ladies and gentlemen, **Sand Sheff** – opens the show. Reservations highly recommended. *Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20-25 (discounts available for seniors, students, military).*

THE HIDEOUT THEATER 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.

Friday This News Tonight brings you fast and furious improv based on current headlines, slicing and dicing the latest scandals and more. *8pm. \$10.* Next comes the long-running **Double Barrel** show, showcasing a different pair of improv troupes each week. *10pm. \$10.*

Saturday: The Dickens, you say? Indeed, here's **Charles Dickens Unleashed!** It's "Improvvised Tales of Bleak Victorian England," from the wild talents of **Parallelgramophonograph** and their friends. What a smashing idea, old bean! *8pm. \$10. Maestro* is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. Highly recommended, because it brings out the wackiest. *10pm. \$10.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelvetaroom.com.

Paul Oddo Just let that surname sink into your Broca's Area for a while there, citizen. And know that **Dan Kilpatrick** and **Chris Cubas** open for the man. *Fri.-Sat., Nov. 27-28, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK Stand-up comedy – right there in the Hole, on the Drag, in the heart of collegiate Texas. *Tuesdays, 10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe. \$5. www.myspace.com/austincomedytrainwreck.*

KICK BUTT COMEDY Open Mic Comedy Bring it or have it brought to you, clever citizen. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.*

COMEDYSPORTZ Competitive improv? Yes, and maestro **Les McGehee** and his talented friends bring it in full force each weekend to one of the sweetest little coffeehouses in the 78704. Also, variety shows! Live music! So much goodness in this venue, in fact, that we'll be expanding this listing for the new year. *Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary. www.comedy7.com.*

AUSTIN'S NEXT TOP IMPROVISER Who's it gonna be? You? That talented friend of yours? That spiky-haired hottie with the gleam in his eyes? That one chick who totally slayed in the recent *Dusk* show? You get to decide, as a fresh group of contestants are put through the ultimate! Improv! Competition! *Fri., Nov. 27, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.gnaptheater.org.*

CRACK! A fully improvised puppet musical? With music? And puppets? And no goddamn script at all? That's what puppet mistress Sara Farr and director Valerie Ward, with a little help from their improv friends, have cooked up for Gnap! Productions this weekend. Audience suggestions will spark the creative fire as ten performers and dozens of puppets concoct a musical that's not exactly what you'd want your younger children to see. Who needs strings to hold them down? *Fri.-Sat., Nov. 27-28, 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. http://wordpress.gnaptheater.org.*

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL: THE LOVE NOTES The newest troupe of improvisers from Gnap!, the **Love Notes**, bring a sort of, well, a *Where in the World Is Carmen San Diego?* format to the SVT stage, followed by – this week – the funky monkeyshines of those punks from **Junk**. Recommended. *Sat., Nov. 28, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

classical

OPENING

THE CHRISTMAS MUSIC OF MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER Celebrate the spirit of the season with Chip Davis' wildly popular "18th-century rock band." *Sat., Nov. 28, 8pm. Bass Concert Hall, 23rd & Robert Dedman Dr., UT campus, 471-1444. \$39-69. www.texasperformingarts.org.*

CHAMBER SOLOISTS OF AUSTIN Wits are matched between composers of music written during the Baroque era and later-era composers who were influenced by the great musicians of the Baroque. Works by Handel and Telemann are side by side with those by Mendelssohn and Bloch. Stephen Redfield, concertmaster. *Sat., Nov. 28, 8pm. 380-0065. \$25 (\$12.50, students). www.chambersoloists.com.*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY: VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL CELEBRATION The semester's end brings a performance by students in the various university music programs. *Mon., Nov., 30, 7:30pm. Maloney Room, St. Edward's University, 3001 S. Congress, 428-1297. Free. www.stedwards.edu.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY JAZZ BAND The Southwestern Music Department presents a diverse collection of high-energy compositions from past masters and current stars. *Tue., Dec. 1, 7pm. Alma Thomas Theatre, Southwestern University, Georgetown. 512/863-1504. Free. www.ssfa.southwestern.edu.*

CAROLING AT NOON CONCERT SERIES Virtuoso performances, caroling, fine cuisine (and free parking Downtown). This week: The **Concordia Chamber Players** with faculty members Kim Perlak, guitar; Karla Hamelin, cello; and Ellen Johnson, flute. *Thu., Dec. 3, 12pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 415-5688. Free (\$8 with lunch). www.stdave.org.*

ADVENT NOON CONCERT SERIES This week: **Chamber Choir of Anderson High School**. Directed by David Beussman. *Thu., Dec. 3, 12:05-12:45pm. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 345-8314. Free. www.stmattsaustin.org.*

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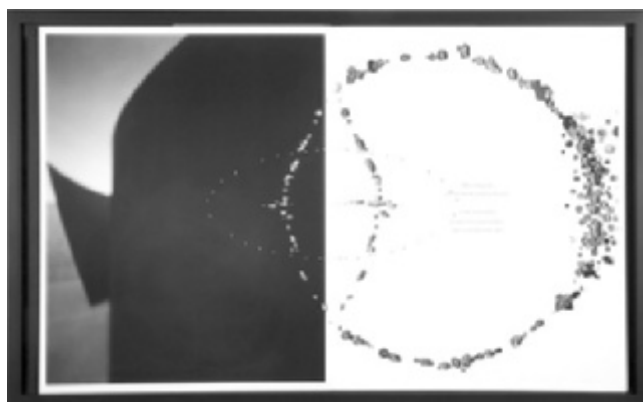
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'Noriko Ambe: Artist Books, Linear-Actions Cutting Project'

Lora Reynolds Gallery
Through Dec. 31



The flesh of books, cut with a cunning scalpel, revealing aspects of the subjects of those books that the books alone and uncut could never display: Noriko Ambe has been at work.

The starkly elegant Lora Reynolds Gallery near the intersection of Nueces and Third presents "Artist Books, Linear-Actions Cutting Project" by New York-based artist Ambe. This show is the culmination of a 20-work series instigated by curator Glenn Fuhrman. It's a spare and stunning display of art books that have undergone transformations via Ambe's precise blade to become both less and more than what they started out as. Not just any art books, mind you, but elegant volumes covering the careers or phases of Damien Hirst, Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Takashi Murakami, and the like: super – for good reason – stars.

Ambe works page by page, the exhibition's catalogue tells us, her subtractions unbalancing the equations of book-bound beauty and forcing them toward figures of greater fascination. Miniature caverns often extend inches deep and seemingly organically into the sweet thick sheets; graceful excisions do not deface but, instead, serve to eerily reveal the deeper faces locked beneath the glossy surface. With each work,

the artist matches method to subject, turning the Lichtenstein book, for instance, into a multileveled pop collage complete with Ben-Day Dots punched through the many pages; rendering the smooth innards of a Tom Friedman retrospective as a series of thought balloons issuing from eviscerated covers to ascend an entire gallery wall; deconstructing books on the work of Hirst and Alberto Giacometti in ways that speak not only to the tropes and triumphs of those artists but also to Ambe's own earlier explorations of structure and its limits.

So many of these radically sculpted objects are explosive with color, it's a genius move – a small thing, but a genius thing – to begin the show's slow waltz through aesthetic bibliectomy with *Blank-Chaos*, Ambe's earliest work here, a topographical marvel cut from a completely white book. How to end the show yourself is another problem entirely. These creations will stay with you, unholed in memory's pages, long after you've returned to the imprecise grit and clamor beyond the gallery's front door.

– Wayne Alan Brenner

ONGOING

CONSPIRARE: CHRISTMAS AT THE CARILLON

Conspirare's annual holiday program showcases Craig Hella Johnson's signature collage technique of weaving diverse musical genres into one luminous whole. This year features Austin singer-songwriter Patrice Pike. Performances: Sat-Sun., Dec. 5-6, 2:30 & 8pm. Concert and gala dinner: Mon., Dec. 7, 6pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-5775. www.conspirare.org.

NOTES & ENCORES

AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: STRING AUDITIONS FOR SPRING SEMESTER

AYO seeks to fill strings spots in each of its five performing orchestras. Membership is open to all interested orchestra students who are both in grades K-12 from public, private, charter, and home schools and members in good standing of their respective school orchestras. Mon., Dec. 7, 6pm. Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. \$100. www.austinyouthorchestra.com.

visual arts

EVENTS

MUSEUM OF EPHEMERATA: 10-YEAR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The Museum of Natural and Artificial Ephemera is 10 years old this day? OMG, we must be geezers, remembering way back to the opening of this in-home emporium of freaky wonderments and strange collections curated by Scott Weibel and Jen Hirt. Help them celebrate a decade of diversions with tasty treats, animal tricks, and tours of the impermanent collection and museum grounds. Sat., Nov. 28, 1-4pm. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org.

CLOSING

DOMY BOOKS GALLERY: MONSTER SHOW 4

There are monsters, monsters, and more monsters in this fourth annual exhibition, as concocted by artists like Deth P Sun, Dylan Reece, Emily Weerts, Esther Pearl Watson, Failure, Heyd Fontenot, Ivete Lucas, Michael Sieben, Sean Gaulager, Jenny Hart, Tim Brown, and oh, dozens of others. Big, ferocious, recommended. (Tip: Check out the Jack-the-Ripper installation, if you have the, uh, guts for such a thing, and belatedly pity poor Mary Kelly.) Through Dec. 3. 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669. www.domystore.com.

MARK THOMAS STUDIO: CHASE MACLASKEY

Acrylic pop art on wood. Through Dec. 1. 1006 W. 31st, 459-6900. www.chasemaclaskey.com.

SVT GALLERY: THE WESTERN PLAIN

Local artist Caroline minimally evokes the landscape of West Texas. Through Nov. 30. 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.salvagevanguard.org.

MACC: FLUTTER: CONNIE ARISMENDI

The artist has created three large-scale installations that depict the emotional fluctuation between hope and anguish. Through Nov. 28. 600 River St., 478-6222. www.maccastin.org.

DAVIS GALLERY: OIL, WATER, AND LIGHT

New works by Laurel Daniel, Christopher St. Leger, and William Wahlgren explore the natural and the urbanized world to beautiful and complex effect. Through Nov. 28. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.

STUDIO2GALLERY: FROM PAIN TO GRACE

Elizabeth Hoisington combines poetry with images in her new book, *Moving Towards Grace*, and is the featured artist in this juried exhibition. Through Nov. 28. 1700 S. Lamar, 326-9102. Free. www.studio2gallery.com.

ART EXCHANGE GALLERY: WENDY FORD MAKEY AND TALAGE MINTOR

Oil paintings of famous buildings and places of worship throughout Texas. Through Nov. 28. 1611 W. Fifth, 992-0130.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: ANNE ASHLEY & NATE RONNIGER

Ashley's neon constructions are arch wonders of polychrome brilliance; Ronniger's hyper-realist oils on linen bring his talents to bear on many a miniature modernist chair. Highly recommended, but maybe you want to wear sunglasses. Through Nov. 28. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: MARGARET ADIE AND STEPHANIE STRANGE

Through Nov. 28. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 974-4000. www.ci.austin.tx.us/dougherty/gallery.htm.

TRANSFORMATION: VISIONARY ART OF

ANASTASIA GREBNOVA Figurative and abstract paintings. Through Nov. 29. City Glass, 1105 E. Sixth. www.anastasiagrebnova.com.

ONGOING

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646. www.joycedibona.com.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: NORIKO AMBE

The New York-based artist wields surgical skill to transform already beautiful books into objects of even greater and surreal beauty. Curated by Glenn Fuhrman and highly recommended. See review, left. Through Dec. 31. 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.

CHAN CHAN: PHOTOS AND PAINTINGS OF CUBA

The photography of Piercarlo Abate and the paintings of Luis Abreux show a side of Cuba that's seldom seen. 81 San Marcos St. www.piercarloabate.com.

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eyecontactart.com.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL: AMY RINGHOLZ AND LINDA ST. CLAIR

Through Dec. 23. Austin Galleries, 1219 W. Sixth. 495-9363. www.austingalleries.com.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS

Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.

GAY FAY KELLY: TEENY TINY ART

Works by Jerry De Frese, Satch Grimley, Daphne Holland, Carrie Kenny, Tim Kerr, Ashe Laughlin, Brian Johnson, Dick Lavine, Michael Long, Scott Rolfe, Mo Scollan. Call for appointment, Mon.-Fri. 478-7676. www.gayfaykellyart.com.

CORONADO STUDIOS

The Serie Project, a nonprofit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. 6601 Felix, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.

VSA ARTS OF TEXAS: HOLIDAY SALE

More than 20 artists represented with ornaments, collages, painting, drawings, sculptures, poetry, music, cards, magnets, prints, mobiles, jewelry, and more. Through Jan. 9. 3710 Cedar #7, 454-9912. www.vsatx.org.

NEW EAST ARTS GALLERY: FACING EAST

The documentary photography by Kaleema H. Al-Nur, Ann Armstrong, Martha Grenon, Adolfo Isassi, and Neesha Thakkar captures life in Central East Austin. 1601 E. Fifth #106.

STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS

New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. 2309 Thornton.

ART ON 5TH: SMALL WORKS

The gallery's contingent of local artists, Texas artists, and national artists have painted a special group of smaller works for this show. Through Jan. 2. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.

ART PALACE: ONE ON ONE ON ONE

You can still catch glimpses of greatness at this Eastside venue before its proprietor up and moves to Houston. Example: The current show rocked the E.A.S.T. with works by Sterling Allen, Sarah Frantz, Matthew Rodriguez, collaborative works by Michael Sieben and Nathan Green, and many more. Through Dec. 5. 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687. www.artpalacegallery.com.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY

Artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos St., 457-0171. www.pablotaoboadastudio.com.

AUSTIN ART GARAGE

Original art by emerging Austin artists. Current exhibit: "Heads & Holgas: Art by Hope Perkins & Cory Ryan." Through Nov. 30. 2200 S. Lamar Ste. J, 351-5934. www.austinartgarage.com.

AUSTIN ART GLASS

This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, classes, and more. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.

AMOA: DAVID BATES AND JADE WALKER

The large and expressive oil paintings of David Bates – vivid scenes of nature, near-documentary images (based on broadcast video) of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina – are paired with new sculptures and installations by Austin's own Jade Walker, she of UT's Creative Research Laboratory. Through Jan. 31. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.

AMOA LAGUNA GLORIA: CASSANDRA JAMES "Earth, Fire, Wind, and Water" is an intimate exhibition of sketchbooks and paintings. *Through Jan. 10.* 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. www.amoa.org.

BLANTON MUSEUM: THE PETROBELLI ALTAR-PIECE This work by Venetian master Paolo Veronese (1528-1588) was recently identified as a fragment of the head of Saint Michael, central figure in the so-called Petrobelli altarpiece from 1565. *Through Feb. 7.* MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

A LEGACY OF QUILTS: THE JOYCE GROSS COLLECTION This exhibit, on loan from UT's Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, spans more than 100 years of the enduring American art form and features 29 quilts made between 1844 and 1950. *Bullock History Museum. 1800 Congress, 936-4639. \$4-7.* www.thestoryoftexas.com.

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the backyard of a South Austin home. Hours: *Saturdays and Sundays, noon-9pm, or by appointment. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413.* www.keepeaustinweird.com.

D BERMAN GALLERY: KATIE MARATTA & OWEN MCAULEY Oh my, yes. The miniature horizontal graphite renderings of landscapes by Maratta and the refreshingly unusual subject choices in the realist oil-on-linen works of McAuley turn this gallery into a showcase of delicate and eerie brilliance. *Through Dec. 12.* 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.

CREATIVE RESEARCH LABORATORY: NO LONE ZONE This performance exhibition features past and present students from UT's Department of Art & Art History. *Through Dec. 19.* 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328. www.flatbedpress.com.

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 7801 N. Lamar, B-148, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

OKAY MOUNTAIN: BOOKSMART This group exhibition, featuring works by Joshua Callaghan, Gareth Long, Neva Elliott, Heman Chong, Anthony Romero, William Hundley, and Erick Michaud, presents "artistic outputs that re-order, deconstruct, or alter the book as a cultural system, either for critique, humor, formal investigation, or all three." *Through Dec. 12.* 1312-B E. Cesar Chavez. www.okaymountain.com.

SLUGFEST GALLERY: TONY FITZPATRICK Vibrant drawings, collages, and prints from this Chicago artist galvanize the inaugural show in Slugfest's newly renovated gallery space. Recommended. *Through Dec. 14.* 1906 Miriam, 477-7204. www.slugfestprints.com.

SOUTH AUSTIN MUSEUM OF POPULAR CULTURE: ALAN POGUE The amazing documentary photography of Alan Pogue, one of Austin's natural treasures himself, offers a vivid retrospective of Austin in the Seventies. *Through Dec. 12.* 1516-B S. Lamar, 440-8318. www.samopc.org.

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN: DAMIAN PRIOUR'S WATER SPARKS Priour is best known for his elegant sculptures using fossilized limestone, glass, and rusted metal – the beach treasures he grew up with on the Texas Gulf Coast. His work is on fine display in this third in the Umlauf's series of annual exhibits of work by contemporary sculptors who studied at the University of Texas. *Through Jan. 3.* 605 Robert E. Lee, 445-5582. www.umlauptsculpture.org.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: MY WICKED TWISTED SENSE OF LOVE A globally diverse group of artists presents works on paper, videos, sounds, and mixed-media installations exploring the nuances of personal relationships, the fear of dying alone, and emotional indifference. *Through Jan. 7.* 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.

YARD DOG FOLK ART: OVER AND UNDER Contemporary works of embroidery as art? This show features more than a dozen creative stitchers and is curated by Jenny "Sublime Stitching" Hart, so you know it has yards and yards of strange goodness to offer. *Through Dec. 6.* 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.overandundershow.blogspot.com.

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

EASTSIDE BOOKS Currently showing works by Patrick King, Ramon Lozano, and John Metcalf. 2415 E. Fifth. 472-2665. www.eastsidebooksaustin.com.

PICTURING AMERICA FROM EAST TO WEST Photographs of America and its art, in a periodically changing display. *Through May.* Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. www.wblibrary.org.

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. www.rosenfieldphotography.com.

LITTLE CITY: BARRY GEORGE Metal sculptural works by this multitalented local make for a more interesting cafe. *Through Dec. 31.* 916 Congress, 476-CITY. www.littlecity.com.

WESTS Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

WET: JESMINDA COLE Paintings, bones, plaster, and lead. Oh, oh my. 1109 S. Congress, 444-7375.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

MARANDA PLEASANT GALLERY: 12X12 HOLIDAY ART BOX SHOW Pick up your 12-inch-by-12-inch-by-12-inch panel to create your contribution to this posh and popular show, which features more than 450 pieces of original artwork for \$100 each. See website for details. Deadline: Dec. 3. Exhibition: Sat., Dec. 5, 6-10pm. 2235 E. Sixth, 713/922-8584. www.bigmodernart.com/boxshow.html.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

GABRIEL CONSTANS presents the controversial novel *Buddha's Wife*, which reveals many previously unknown facts about Siddhartha (who became the Buddha) and provides a unique and challenging perspective from Yasodhara's (Siddhartha's wife) point of view. *Wed., Dec. 2, 7pm.* BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. Free. www.buddhaswife.com.

POETRY ON THE PLAZA offers up singers and songwriters for a lunchtime treat. *Wed., Dec. 2, noon.* Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. Free. www.hrc.utexas.edu.

AN'TONY DE'SHAY does the fraternity thing in his novel *Pledge or Die*. *Sat., Nov. 28, 3-6pm.* Mitchie's Gallery, 7801 N. Lamar, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER: FROM OUT THAT SHADOW The HRC has teamed up with the University of Virginia to present this **Edgar Allan Poe** show – an expansive and remarkable collection of manuscripts, letters, first editions, illustrations, and other storied ephemera concerning one of the country's most famous writers. *Through Jan. 3.* Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

NORTH AUSTIN KNITTERS meet weekly to knit and discuss great books. *Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME (formerly Writing From the Heart) is a long-running, just-for-fun, non-critique writing practice group that meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. *Sat., Nov. 28, 10am-noon.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.fifteenminutesoffame.wordpress.com.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY CLUB *The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene. Paul and Kester host. *Mon., Nov. 30, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

REWRITTEN HISTORY CLUB *Some Danger Will Be Involved* by Will Thomas. *Wed., Dec. 2, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

VOYAGE OUT CLUB *The Conservationist* by Nadine Gordimer. Brian C. and Daniel host. *Sun., Nov. 29, 5pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

BOOKWOMAN BOOKGROUP *The Dress Lodger* by Sheri Holman. New members are welcome. Note that this meeting is not at BookWoman. *Sun., Nov. 29, 6pm.* Cherrywood Coffeehouse, 1400 E. 38½, 538-1991. www.myspace.com/cherrywoodcoffeehouse.

FROM BOOKS TO MOVIES sniffs Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. *Tue., Dec. 1, 7:30pm.* Milwood Branch Library, 12500 Amherst.

OPEN MICS

GENUINE JOE *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm.* Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.

THE HIDEOUT is hosted by Thom Moon 10 and features Tova Charles with the release of her book *Handled With Care*. *Mondays, 7-10pm.* The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.

HOT MAMA'S OPEN MIC *Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm.* Hot Mama's Espresso Bar, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-MAMA. www.myspace.com/hotmamasespresso.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pommo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast. You thought it rocked before, check out its new all-ages power in the Independent. *Wednesdays, 8pm.* The Independent at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$5 (21 and older). www.austin-slam.com.

SPOKEN & HEARD is an open-minded open-mic experience. Poetry, music, singing, whatever. Bring words, make noise, bring yourself, make friends. American Sign Language interpreter available. Hosted by The Crew. *Every Sunday, 7-10pm.* Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbuttcffee.com.

LA TAZZA FRESCA Hosted by Kathleen Romana each second and fourth Friday. *Fri., Nov. 27, 7-9pm.* La Tazza Fresca, 519 W. 37th, 371-5383. latazzafresca@earthlink.net.

MUSIC CAFE offers an outlet for local poetry, spoken word, and music artists. Hosted by Lee Linccum. *Thursdays, 8pm.* Music Cafe, 2050 S. Lamar, 326-8742. www.austinmusiccafe.com.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. Hosted by David Bates. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm.* Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ VINNY'S Hosted by Lee Leteff with Jena and family. Also, Michael McClanahan and Kathleen Romana. Next features are Madeleine Mercier and Deb Akers. *Vinny's Italian Cafe, 1003 Barton Springs Rd., 482-8484.* Free.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *the moments passing like slow rivers leaving the rocky grounds where drifting clouds let go of clinging to nothing at all. rain formed round specks of dust – a lock of her hair wrapped in a ribbon kept in a bedroom drawer. "love will tear us apart." love is the most radical act of all & such love means it holds to no idea of itself as more than open sky a sea a hand to the till & each wave a world rising to taste what winds blow in from something a lover lets go – a call – a trembling to set in motion the yearning of naked hearts.* Namaste. Vaya con dios.

BARNES & NOBLE HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE Give the gift of reading to children in need by donating books through locally designated nonprofit organizations. Recipients throughout the country include schools, libraries, literacy organizations, family social service agencies, and homeless centers. This year, the Barnes & Noble Arboretum location is collecting books for Women's Storybook Project. *Through Jan. 1.* Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. store-locator.barnesandnoble.com.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

This gift of life (provisional)

This morning (largely forgotten)

This afternoon (fleeting sunshine)

This evening (calm and sweet)

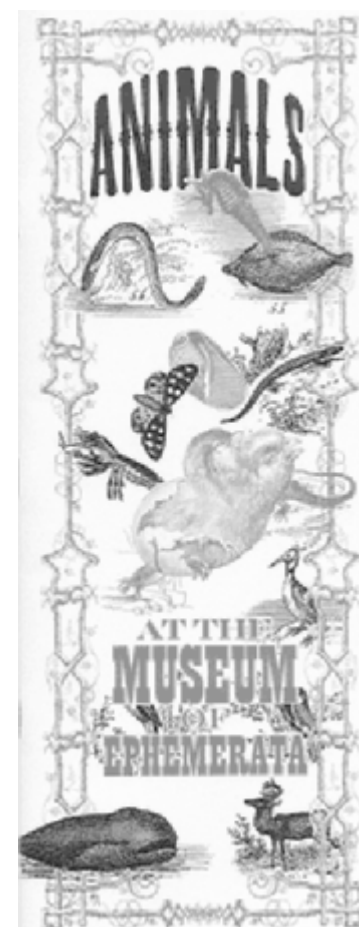
Your welcome (fresh and new)

And we who enjoy this gratitude

Give thanks for time and you



REMNANTS OF THE E.A.S.T.: THE WORK OF ADREONE HENRY, STILL BEAUTIFULLY ON DISPLAY AT SUPER!ALRIGHT!



HUZZAH! THIS WEEKEND MARKS THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTIN'S MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA! WON'T YOU JOIN THE CELEBRATION, COMRADE?

– Thom Moon 10

film listings



Fantastic Mr. Fox

D: Wes Anderson; with the voices of George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Wallace Wolodarsky, Eric Chase Anderson, Michael Gambon, Willem Dafoe. (PG, 87 min.)

Wes Anderson began his feature career with two nearly flawless films, *Bottle Rocket* and *Rushmore*, and he's been paying for them ever since. As early as *The Royal Tenenbaums*, the pitchforks came

out for the writer/director, with the triumphs of the first two used as evidence against his later work, against a perceived inflexibility. True, Anderson revisits the same themes (obsessive plan-making, an honor code among gentlemen rogues, rocky relations between fathers and sons, and the pursuit of something like immortality). He embellishes his films with the same camerawork (whip pans) and music cues (British Invasion bands, nondiagetic lifts from other films). He even uses the same signature font (Futura) throughout. Anderson's last two "variations," *The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou* and the underrated *The Darjeeling Limited*, were not unqualified successes; haters would call them flat-out failures. A less idiosyncratic (or stubborn?) filmmaker might have made a conciliatory about-face with his next picture, and certainly the source material here appears, at first glance, far afield of Anderson's usual lens-finder. But instead of bending to the will of the source, Roald Dahl's 1970 children's book about a turf war between farmers and foxes, Anderson has instead made it conform rather giddily to his own sensibilities. Dahl's books are notoriously grim affairs, full of menace and grotesquerie, but Anderson's not interested in that: This is an animated film that happily has room for both an existentialist dread of death and a grinning joie de vivre. Clooney voices the titular Mr. Fox, a former thief made to go straight by his wife (Streep) when they give birth to a son, Ash (Schwartzman). But Mr. Fox is too visionary and, well, prankish to stay settled down, so he masterminds

one last caper: a three-pronged assault on the coops and larders of the three neighboring farmers, known as Boggis, Bunce, and Bean (Gambon). Bean, owner of an apple orchard, hires as security Dafoe's Rat, and he's one of the comic highlights in a very funny film; soundtracked to a spaghetti western-flavored theme song and dressed like a soused Frenchman, Rat is a dirty rotten delight. *Fantastic Mr. Fox* is rendered in traditional stop-motion animation – a style nearly bygone in these digital days – and both the antiquity and the laboriousness of that process are perfectly suited to Anderson, whose backward-glancing includes call-backs to live-action Disney, the animated 1973 *Robin Hood*, and Hawkeye's distinctive whistle in Robert Altman's *M*A*S*H* and whose fastidiousness tracks all the way down to filmed details like the call number on the binding of a library book. There's a terrific amount of talent corralled here, including animation director Mark Gustafson; production designer Nelson Lowry, who perfectly translates Anderson's tweedy mien to quadrupeds; composer Alexandre Desplat (a welcome replacement for Mark Mothersbaugh, whose signature style, honed in Anderson's early pictures, has now become ubiquitous); and co-writer Noah Baumbach (*The Squid and the Whale*). Is there any question that this is a Wes Anderson picture? Not a chance. Have we seen it all before? Not like this. – *Kimberley Jones*
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

new reviews

THE BOONDOCK SAINTS II: ALL SAINTS DAY

D: Troy Duffy; with Sean Patrick Flanery, Norman Reedus, Billy Connolly, Clifton Collins Jr., Julie Benz, Peter Fonda, Judd Nelson. (R, 118 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. This follow-up to the cult original has the brothers returning from Ireland to Boston, where they've been framed for murdering a priest by someone who's copying their former execution style. It was not screened in Austin for critics. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Tinseltown South

DE DANA DAN

D: Priyadarshan; with Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Suniel Shetty, Paresh Raval. (NR, 141 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this Bollywood comedy, two men come up with a dognapping plan in order to raise money quickly so they can satisfy their rich girlfriends. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Tinseltown South

KURBAAN

D: Renzil D'Silva; with Saif Ali Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Rupinder Nagra, Om Puri. (NR, 160 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. Real-life spouses Khan and Kapoor star as an Indian married couple, who are both university professors living in the U.S. when they get caught up in some urban terrorist actions. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Tinseltown South

NINJA ASSASSIN

D: James McTeigue; with Rain, Naomie Harris, Ben Miles, Rick Yune. (R, 99 min.)

Pitched somewhere between a pre-adolescent boy's fantasy world of nunchaku and *shuriken* (or fighting sticks and throwing stars) and a wildly off-kilter exercise in homoerotic beefcakery, this astonishingly crappy slo-mo gorefest proves once and for all that McTeigue wasn't the man responsible for the excellent *V for Vendetta*. Although he was credited as director, it's now apparent that the Wachowski brothers, who wrote and produced and at the time of *V*'s release were rumored to have "assisted" with that nihilistic heartstopper of a film, were, in fact, at the helm. I'm not sure there's *anybody* at the helm of *Ninja Assassin*, which just flat-out sucks rice dumplings, beginning with its generic title on down to its preposterously dumb view of the ups and downs and, you know, bullet-avoidance techniques of your average contemporary ninja. That would be ginchy Korean pop-lite star Rain who plays Raizo, who was abducted as a child by the not even vaguely mysterious Ozunu Clan, and thereafter raised to be, like, totally unkillable and way superbuff. The convoluted and really, really lousy storyline has sexy, Berlin-based Interpol agent Mika Coretti (Harris) digging up connections between a recent spate of high-profile international assassinations and the Ozunus. Thus both the now-you-see-him, now-you-see-him-with-his-shirt-off Raizo – who can appear out of nowhere, rain down razor-edged throwing stars, and then disappear in less time than it will take *Ninja Assassin*

to exit your local theatre – and Coretti are targeted for death by ... oh, seriously, who cares? *Ninja Assassin*, awash in a veritable flood of patently fake CG blood – some of which ends up bespotting the "camera," no less – feels like getting stuck on Level 1 of the 1992 beta version of *Mortal Kombat* for two hours. It's so unreal it hurts. – *Marc Savlov*
Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown South, Westgate

OLD DOGS

D: Walt Becker; with Robin Williams, John Travolta, Kelly Preston, Seth Green, Ella Bleu Travolta, Conner Rayburn, Lori Loughlin, Matt Dillon, Rita Wilson, Dax Shepard, Bernie Mac, Luis Guzmán, Ann-Margret, Amy Sedaris, Justin Long. (PG, 88 min.)

Let sleeping dogs lie, they say. But old dogs? Euthanasia is a common practice, I'm told, and wouldn't be out of place on this doddering dross. *Old Dogs* amounts to little more than an opportunity for Williams and the Travolta family (parents Travolta and Preston co-star alongside daughter Ella Bleu Travolta) to cash nice paychecks – but not on the public's dime, if there's any justice. *Old Dogs* is not so much bad as it is witless and predictable. No one's heart seems to be in the affair, and the paint-by-numbers comedy just doesn't sell itself. Travolta and Williams play Charlie and Dan, phenomenally successful sports marketers who are on the verge of the biggest deal of their careers. We are not meant to pause and dwell on the fact that these two pudgy and sluggish fiftysomethings hardly seem the types to sit at the pinnacle of such a driven and competitive occupation. Out of nowhere, Dan discovers he is the father of a set of twins conceived during a night of sex seven years ago. The mother (Preston) is about to go to jail for two weeks as the result of an environmental protest. But for some unrealistic reason, she picks the night before she is to go to prison as the time to reveal the truth of his parentage to Dan. Complications arise, and Dan agrees to look after the children (Ella Bleu Travolta and Rayburn) for the fortnight, and of course that means his best pal and business partner Charlie also comes along for the ride. Cue the jokes about kids out with their grandpas. Equally funny: jokes about two gay men and their offspring. Let's see; there's also a tanning disaster, golf balls whacked to the nuts, a camp-out that ends with a calamitous game of "prison rules" Frisbee, a penguin attack, and a manic (and probably the film's funniest) sequence in which the men's daily pill allotments are switched and cause ridiculously comic side effects. Trivia connoisseurs should note that this film was Bernie Mac's last; *Old Dogs'* release was delayed eight months out of respect for the dead. (Maybe someone sensed that the comedian's appearance as the flamboyantly gay and unfunny kids performer Jimmy Lunchbox would not be good for Mac's legacy.) As with Mac, numerous top-flight performers (among them Dillon, Ann-Margret, Wilson, an unbilled Long) make what amount to little more than cameo appearances. In addition to Mac's appearance 15 months after his death, a scene that occurs in what appears to be the old Shea Stadium piles on the film's musty

odor. Green gets some good mileage from his runty demeanor, and it's no accident that his mildly humorous moment in the clench of a gorilla paw is one of the film's key advertising images. Director Becker (*Wild Hogs*, *Van Wilder*) treats the comedy in *Old Dogs* the same as if he were treating a case of mange: Apply two gags, rub in liberally, and call in the morning with the box-office totals. Aarf. — *Marjorie Baumgarten*

➔ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE ROAD D: John Hillcoat; with Viggo Mortensen, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Charlize Theron, Robert Duvall, Guy Pearce, Molly Parker. (R, 119 min.)

I'm not sure which was more of a downer: my first reading of Texan Cormac McCarthy's bleak, end-of-days novel; Oprah Winfrey's championing of the book and its reclusive author; or the inevitable news that *The Road* was headed for the big screen. The novel, by any standard, is no one's idea of a giddy, fun, summer beach read. It's the story of a father and son (credited as "Man" and "Boy") wandering through a blighted American wasteland beset by some (unnamed) catastrophe. Cannibalism, rape, and worse are the order of the day, but McCarthy's unswerving humanity sees the novel through to a conclusion that is no less wrenching for the rusty sliver of hope it offers. Director Hillcoat proves an inspired choice to helm this film adaptation (from a script by Joe Penhall). Hillcoat is no stranger to the black backside of inhumanity or the sooty visage of hope; he's brought to the screen two fine examinations of Homo sapiens gone feral: 1988's *Ghosts ... of the Civil Dead* and 2005's *The Proposition*, both penned by perpetual bad seed and morose moaner Nick Cave. Hillcoat's rendering of McCarthy's words can't be faulted for its visual replication of the author's grim picture of mankind's final days. Canted telephone and power poles line the road upon which the man (Mortensen, suitably looking and acting like a man in infinite tooth and bowel agony) and his boy (Smit-McPhee) make their trek southward, aiming to find some sort of lesser evil at land's end. Along the way they encounter an Old Man (Duvall, who, unsurprisingly, seems absolutely normal roaming around at the end of the world) and engage in a deadly game of hide, seek, and devour with a bloodthirsty band of roving, starving, survivalist types. It's Hopeless and Corpsey on

The Road to Gehenna but minus Dorothy Lamour's gams and any semblance of anything approaching even grim good cheer. Mortensen, viewed either as a patriarchal Christ figure or simply as a devoted father, works minor miracles in what is essentially a one-note role. Who knew there were so many facial expressions approximating unrelenting despair? *The Road* deviates from McCarthy's original text via a series of flashbacks to the man's pre-apocalyptic life with the woman (Theron) who both leaves her family behind and is in turn left behind by them. I can understand why Penhall and Hillcoat felt the need for some vague semblance of backstory here, but the sequences with Theron are unnecessary and work at cross-purposes to the blackened heart and ashy soul of what is, ultimately, a near-biblical tale of father and son, certain death, and possible (if improbable) salvation. — *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON D: Chris Weitz; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Ashley Greene, Michael Sheen, Peter Facinelli, Billy Burke. (PG-13, 130 min.)

Catherine Hardwicke started the saga with last year's *Twilight*, a deliciously trashy mash of pulp and pop art that managed to take seriously its central lovers — doomy vampire Edward (Pattinson) and his teenage human paramour, Bella (Stewart) — while maintaining a sense of humor about itself. But Summit Entertainment chucked Hardwicke for the second installment (in a projected four-film adaptation of Stephenie Meyer's bestselling, young-adult vampire series), and her successor, Weitz, brings zero sense of play or sexual energy to the piece. It's as if everything's been buffed to achieve maximum banality. *New Moon* opens with a *Romeo and Juliet* quotation — "these violent delights have violent ends" — and not long into the film's turgid first hour, one can't help but wish that violent end would come sooner rather than later. At the film's beginning, Edward dumps Bella — like, *the day after her birthday*, *OMG* — and scurries off to unknown lands. He's mostly absent in *New Moon*, which turns out to be a boon, because whatever "it" quality Hardwicke coaxed out of Pattinson in the first film (a considerable amount, I'd argue — his Edward was a nice mix of creepy and brooding, with a little Brando marble-mouth tossed in for flavor) has completely gone flat here. Bella, incapacitated with grief, turns to her old pal Jacob (Lautner) for comfort and companionship. And, boy, she sure can pick 'em: No sooner can you say "bad-boy mag-

net" than Jacob starts morphing into a werewolf. The digital effects here are top-notch (as were the ones Weitz supervised in his last film, *The Golden Compass*), and *New Moon* excels in two centerpiece action sequences, including one set in Italy, where a coven of vampire royalty, the Volturi, lives. Sheen's Aro rules the roost there; he's apparently a first-rate mind reader. But when he tries to read the thoughts of Bella, he's stumped — "I see nothing!" he marvels — and it's all one can do not to snicker. Of course he sees nothing. There's nothing there. The simpering Bella might as well be a cartoon character with tranced curlicues for eyes, her brainwaves emitting an endless loop of *edwardwardwardwardwardward*. I'm told Bella's helplessness is true to the spirit of the novels, but so what? It's almost 2010 — let's get hip, people. — *Kimberley Jones*

★➔ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

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GREAT YEAR AUSTIN.**



ALICE'S RESTAURANT

"PHENOMENAL!"

Shawn Edwards, FOX-TV



Dan Kois, THE WASHINGTON POST

A NOVEL INSPIRED FILM

2012

COLUMBIA PICTURES presents A CRYPTOPUS PRODUCTION "2012" JOHN CUSACK CHEWYEL REYNOL AMANDA PEET OLIVER PLATT THAMIE HEVILIN with DANIEL CLOVER and WENDY HANDELSON MUSIC BY HAROLD KLOSER and THOMAS WINTER
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JONAS JOHANSSON PRODUCED BY DANIEL CLOVER AND WENDY HANDELSON WRITTEN BY HAROLD KLOSER AND THOMAS WINTER
DIRECTED BY OLIVER PLATT CASTING BY JONAS JOHANSSON COSTUME DESIGNER: JONAS JOHANSSON EDITOR: DANIEL CLOVER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JONAS JOHANSSON PRODUCED BY DANIEL CLOVER AND WENDY HANDELSON
COLUMBIA PICTURES
PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13
INTENSE DISASTER SEQUENCES AND SOME LANGUAGE
COLUMBIA PICTURES
WHO WILL SURVIVE 2012.COM

NOW PLAYING
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

openings & ratings

The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (R)

De Dana Dan (NR)

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG)

Kurbaan (NR)

Ninja Assassin (R)

Old Dogs (PG)

The Road (R)

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

☹ La bomba

showtimes

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ

320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.
Action Pack: 1997 Sing-Along: Thu (12/3), 9:45pm
Fantastic Fest: Adrift in Tokyo: Tue, 7:00pm; Wed-Thu (12/3), 4:10pm
Antichrist: Thu (11/26), 9:45pm; Fri, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35; Sat, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35; Sun, 12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:20; Mon, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35; Tue, 4:00, 6:00; Wed, 6:30, 9:15; Thu (12/3), 5:00, 7:45, 10:35
Antichrist (Thanksgiving feast): Thu (11/26), 4:10pm
Master Pancake: Christmas Show: Sat, 7:00, 10:00
Music Monday: Electric Heat: Don Ellis: Mon, 9:45pm
Action Pack: Elf Quote-Along: Thu (12/3), 7:00pm
Grey Gardens: Sat, 4:00pm
Horrible Turn: Fri, 10:00pm
Lord of the Rings Trilogy Hobbit Feast: Sun, 10:30am
Weird Wednesday: Mighty Peking Man: Wed, 12mid
Big Screen Classics: Planes, Trains & Automobiles Thanksgiving Feast: Thu (11/26), 7:00pm
Big Screen Classics: Planes, Trains & Automobiles: Fri, 7:00pm; Sat, 1:20pm
Master Pancake: Road House: Wed, 7:00, 10:00
Pizza Party: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mon, 7:00pm
Terror Tuesday: Transformers: Tue, 8:45pm
Until the Light Takes Us: Thu (11/26), 11:00pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK

13729 Research, 219-5408.
***The Blind Side:** Thu (11/26), 12:15, 3:40, 7:15, 10:45; Fri-Thu (12/3), 12:00, 3:15, 6:45, 10:20
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D):** Thu (11/26), 11:10am, 1:45, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30pm; Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10pm; Mon, 11:10am, 1:45, 4:20, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (12/3), 11:10am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10pm
***Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Thu (11/26), 11:00am, 1:25, 3:50, 6:30, 9:15pm; Fri-Thu (12/3), 11:00am, 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45pm
Humble Pie: Wed, 7:30pm
***Ninja Assassin:** Thu (11/26), 11:30am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:25, 10:20pm; Fri-Thu (12/3), 11:30am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:45, 10:40pm
***The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Thu (11/26), 12:00, 12:20, 3:30, 4:00, 7:00, 7:45, 10:30, 11:00; Fri-Thu (12/3), 11:45am, 12:20, 3:30, 4:00, 4:00, 6:30, 7:30, 10:00, 11:00pm
***2012:** Thu (11/26), 11:20am, 3:20pm; Fri-Tue, 11:20am, 3:25, 8:00pm; Wed, 11:20am, 3:25pm; Thu (12/3), 11:20am, 3:25, 8:00pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH

1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.
***The Blind Side:** Thu (11/26), 10:15pm; Fri-Sun, 12:25, 3:40, 7:10, 10:15; Mon, 3:40, 7:10, 10:15; Tue, 12:25, 3:40, 7:10; Wed-Thu (12/3), 3:40, 7:10, 10:15
***The Blind Side (Thanksgiving feast):** Thu (11/26), 3:40, 7:10
Kids Club: Condoarnam: Sat, 11:00am
Fantastic Mr. Fox (family feast): Thu (12/3), 7:00pm
***Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Thu (11/26), 8:30, 10:50; Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50pm; Mon, 3:45, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50; Tue, 11:00am, 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:30pm; Wed, 3:45, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50; Thu (12/3), 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
***Fantastic Mr. Fox (Thanksgiving feast):** Thu (11/26), 3:45, 6:10
Monsoon Wedding: Thu (12/3), 6:30pm
***Ninja Assassin:** Thu (11/26), 9:40pm; Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:05, 9:40pm; Mon, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40; Tue, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05pm; Wed-Thu (12/3), 4:20, 7:05, 9:40
***Ninja Assassin (Thanksgiving feast):** Thu (11/26), 4:20, 7:05
***Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire:** Thu (11/26), 10:10pm; Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10; Tue, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30pm; Wed, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10; Thu (12/3), 3:30, 10:25
***Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire (Thanksgiving feast):** Thu (11/26), 4:30, 7:30
***The Road:** Fri, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20pm; Sat, 1:50, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20; Sun, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20pm; Mon, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20; Tue, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:35pm; Wed-Thu (12/3), 4:40, 7:35, 10:20
***The Road (Thanksgiving feast):** Thu (11/26), 4:40, 7:35
AFS: Shadows in Paradise: Tue, 7:00pm
***The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Thu (11/26), 10:00pm; Fri-Sun, 12:50, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00; Mon, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00; Tue, 12:50, 3:55; Wed, 3:30, 10:00; Thu (12/3), 3:55, 9:45
***The Twilight Saga: New Moon (Thanksgiving feast):** Thu (11/26), 3:55, 7:00

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE

2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee Baby Day shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D):** Thu (11/26), 10:15pm; Fri-Sun, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:00; Mon, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10pm; Tue, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30; Wed, 4:45, 7:30; Thu (12/3), 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (Thanksgiving feast):** Thu (11/26), 4:45, 7:30
The Men Who Stare at Goats: Thu (11/26), 9:50pm; Fri-Sun, 4:05, 7:20, 9:50; Tue, 4:05, 7:20
Wed-Thu (12/3), 4:05, 7:20, 9:50
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
***The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Thu (11/26), 10:25pm; Fri-Sat, 12:30, 3:45, 7:10, 10:25, 11:30; Sun, 12:30, 3:45, 7:10, 10:25; Mon, 3:45, 7:10, 10:25; Tue, 12:30, 3:45, 7:10; Wed-Thu (12/3), 3:45, 7:10, 10:25
***The Twilight Saga: New Moon (Thanksgiving feast):** Thu (11/26), 3:45, 7:10, 10:25
2012: Thu (11/26), 10:40pm; Fri-Sun, 12:15, 3:30, 7:00, 10:40; Mon, 3:30, 7:00, 10:40; Tue, 12:15, 3:30, 7:00; Wed-Thu (12/3), 3:30, 7:00, 10:40

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS

9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm and all day Wednesdays.
An Education: 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:25
The Men Who Stare at Goats: 12:00, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:15
The Messenger: 11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm
Pirate Radio: 12:40, 3:50, 7:10, 9:55
Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire: 12:20, 12:50, 3:00, 4:00, 6:50, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10
The Road: 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00
A Serious Man: 12:30, 3:10, 7:00, 9:40

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC)

Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.
The Blind Side: Thu (11/26) Sat, 10:20am, 11:30, 1:20, 2:30, 4:20, 5:30, 7:20, 8:25, 10:20, 11:25pm; Sun, 10:20am, 11:30, 1:20, 2:30, 4:20, 5:30, 7:20, 8:25, 10:20pm;
Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:20, 2:30, 4:20, 5:30, 7:20, 8:25, 10:20

Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D): Thu (11/26)-Sun, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:10, 6:45, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:40, 4:10, 6:45, 9:10; **Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Thu (11/26) Sat, 10:05am, 12:25, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45, 11:55pm; Sun, 10:50am, 12:25, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 12:25, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45
The Men Who Stare at Goats: Thu (11/26) Sat, 10:15am, 12:40, 3:05, 5:25, 7:50, 10:25pm; Sun-Thu (12/3), 12:40, 3:05, 5:25, 7:50, 10:25
Ninja Assassin: Thu (11/26) Sat, 11:35am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40pm, 12mid; Sun, 11:35am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 2:05, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40
Old Dogs: Thu (11/26) Sat, 10:10am, 11:15, 12:30, 1:35, 2:50, 3:50, 5:15, 6:15, 7:35, 8:35, 9:50, 10:55pm; Sun, 10:10am, 11:15, 12:30, 1:35, 2:50, 3:50, 5:15, 6:15, 7:35, 8:35, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 12:30, 1:35, 2:50, 3:50, 5:15, 6:15, 7:35, 8:35, 9:50
Planet 51: Thu (11/26)-Sat, 11:25am, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15, 11:30pm; Sun, 11:25am, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:40, 10:05
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (closed captioned and descriptive video): Thu (11/26)-Sun, 10:00am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
***The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Thu (11/26)-Sat, 11:00am, 12:00, 1:55, 3:00, 4:55, 6:00, 9:05, 11:05, 11:35pm, 12:10am; Sun, 11:00am, 12:00, 1:55, 3:00, 4:55, 6:00, 8:00, 9:05pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:55, 3:00, 4:55, 6:00, 8:00, 9:05
2012: Thu (11/26)-Sat, 9:55am, 11:40, 1:10, 3:10, 4:40, 6:40, 8:10, 10:10, 11:45pm; Sun, 9:55am, 11:40, 1:10, 3:10, 4:40, 6:40, 8:10, 10:10pm; Mon, 11:40am, 1:10, 3:10, 4:40, 6:40, 8:10, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (12/3), 1:10, 3:10, 4:40, 6:40, 8:10, 10:10

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK

1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO. Call for showtimes Dec. 3.
***The Blind Side:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 11:50am, 1:10, 2:40, 4:10, 5:40, 7:10, 8:40, 10:10pm; Mon-Wed, 1:10, 2:40, 4:10, 5:40, 7:10, 8:40, 10:10
NCM Fathom: The Christmas Sweater: A Return to Redemption: Thu (12/3), 7:00pm
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D):** Thu (11/26), 1:40, 4:20, 6:40, 9:10; Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 1:40, 4:20, 6:40, 9:10pm; Mon-Wed, 1:40, 4:20, 6:40, 9:10
***Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Thu (11/26), 1:20, 3:40, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30pm; Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:20, 3:40, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30pm; Mon-Wed, 1:20, 3:40, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30
The Men Who Stare at Goats: Thu (11/26)-Wed, 10:40pm
***Ninja Assassin:** Thu (11/26), 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 10:20; Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:20pm; Mon-Wed, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:20
***Old Dogs:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:30, 9:50; Mon-Wed, 2:30, 4:50, 7:30, 9:50
***Planet 51:** Thu (11/26), 12:50, 2:10, 3:20, 4:40, 6:50, 9:20; Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 1:30, 12:50, 2:10, 3:20, 4:40, 6:50, 9:20pm; Mon-Wed, 12:50, 2:10, 3:20, 4:40, 6:50, 9:20
2012: Thu (11/26), 12:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:10, 7:20, 8:30pm; Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 12:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:10, 7:20, 8:30pm; Mon-Wed, 1:30, 3:30, 5:10, 7:20, 8:30

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14

12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO. Call for showtimes Dec. 3.
Astro Boy: Thu (11/26)-Wed, 12:10, 2:30, 5:00
***The Blind Side:** Thu (11/26)-Wed, 11:40am, 1:15, 2:45, 4:20, 5:50, 7:25, 8:55, 10:35pm
NCM Fathom: The Christmas Sweater: A Return to Redemption: Thu (12/3), 7:00pm
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D):** Thu (11/26)-Wed, 1:20, 3:55, 6:35, 9:20
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D):** Thu (11/26)-Wed, 11:55am, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30pm
***Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Thu (11/26)-Wed, 1:35am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40pm
The Men Who Stare at Goats: Thu (11/26)-Wed, 7:35, 10:05
***Ninja Assassin:** Thu (11/26)-Wed, 12:20, 3:00, 5:35, 8:10, 10:35
***Old Dogs:** Thu (11/26)-Wed, 12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
***Planet 51:** Thu (11/26)-Wed, 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45pm
***The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Thu (11/26)-Wed, 11:45am, 12:50, 1:55, 2:55, 4:00, 5:05, 6:05, 7:10, 8:15, 9:15, 10:20pm
***2012:** Thu (11/26)-Wed, 12:00, 1:50, 3:40, 5:55, 7:30, 9:25

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK

2120 N. Mays, Round Rock, 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.
Fame: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00
G-Force: Thu (11/26), 2:30, 5:15; Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:20, 3:30, 6:45, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:20, 3:30, 6:45, 9:15
Halloween II: Thu (11/26), 1:50, 4:25
Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs: Thu (11/26), 2:15, 4:30; Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 1:45, 4:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:45, 4:00
The Informant!: Thu (11/26), 7:05, 9:40
Intigriourous Basterds: Thu (11/26), 8:15pm
The Invention of Lying: Thu (11/26), 3:10, 4:15, 7:45, 10:00; Fri-Thu (12/3), 7:30, 10:05
Julie & Julia: Thu (11/26), 3:45, 7:00, 9:45; Fri-Thu (12/3), 7:00, 9:45
Love Happens: Thu (11/26), 6:50, 9:30
9: Thu (11/26), 2:45, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15; Fri-Sun, 12:00, 2:15, 5:15; Mon-Thu (12/3), 2:15, 5:15
Shorts: Thu (11/26), 1:45, 4:00, 7:30, 10:05; Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40
Surrogates: Fri-Sun, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:45, 10:10; Mon-Thu (12/3), 2:30, 4:45, 7:45, 10:10
Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All by Myself: Thu (11/26), 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50; Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:45, 6:50, 9:50
Mon-Thu (12/3), 3:45, 6:50, 9:50
Zombieland: Fri-Sun, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/3), 2:45, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK

4401 N. I-35, Round Rock, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.
***The Blind Side:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 10:00am, 11:20, 1:10, 2:30, 4:20, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:10, 2:30, 4:20, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D):** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 6:50, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:40, 4:30, 6:50, 9:30
***Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 9:40am, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:40
Law Abiding Citizen: Thu (11/26)-Sun, 10:15am, 12:50, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 12:50, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10
The Men Who Stare at Goats: Thu (11/26)-Sun, 11:10am, 1:30, 4:10, 6:20, 8:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:30, 4:10, 6:20, 8:50

Ninja Assassin: Thu (11/26)-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10, 5:10, 8:00, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 2:10, 5:10, 8:00, 10:40
***Old Dogs:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 10:10am, 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00
***Planet 51:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 10:20am, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
***The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 9:50am, 10:50, 11:50, 1:00, 2:00, 3:10, 4:00, 5:00, 6:10, 7:10, 8:10, 9:20, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:00, 2:00, 3:10, 4:00, 5:00, 6:10, 7:10, 8:10, 9:20, 10:20
2012: Thu (11/26)-Sun, 9:45am, 11:45, 1:20, 3:20, 4:50, 6:40, 8:30, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:20, 3:20, 4:50, 6:40, 8:30, 10:10

CINEMARK SOUTH PARK MEADOWS

9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.
***The Blind Side:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 10:15am, 11:45, 1:20, 2:50, 4:30, 6:20, 7:30, 9:25, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:20, 2:50, 4:30, 6:20, 7:30, 9:25, 10:35
NCM Fathom: The Christmas Sweater: A Return to Redemption: Thu (12/3), 7:00pm
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D):** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 10:50am, 12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15pm; Mon-Tue, 12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15; Wed-Thu (12/3), 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
Fantastic Mr. Fox: Thu (11/26)-Sun, 10:30am, 12:55, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 12:55, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:25pm
***Ninja Assassin:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:05, 6:50, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 1:30, 4:05, 6:50, 9:30
***Old Dogs:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 10:20am, 11:35, 12:40, 2:00, 3:00, 4:20, 5:15, 6:45, 7:40, 9:10, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 12:40, 2:00, 3:00, 4:20, 5:15, 6:45, 7:40, 9:10, 10:10
***Planet 51:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 10:10am, 12:50, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/3), 12:50, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
***The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Thu (11/26)-Sun, 10:00am, 10:45, 11:30, 12:15, 1:00, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:00, 4:45, 5:30, 6:15, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:15, 10:00pm; Mon-Wed, 12:15, 1:00, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:00, 4:45, 5:30, 6:15, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:15, 10:00; Thu (12/3), 12:15, 1:00, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:45, 5:30, 6:15, 7:45, 8:30, 9:15
***2012:** 12:10, 1:15, 3:45, 4:50, 7:20, 8:15

DOBIE THEATRE

2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.
Antichrist: Thu (11/26)-Sun, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/3), 7:15, 9:50
Best Interviews With Hideous Men: Thu (11/26), 4:30, 9:45
Cinéma France: Délice Paloma: Mon, 7:00pm
The Men Who Stare at Goats: Thu (11/26)-Sun, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:40; Mon, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu (12/3), 7:30, 9:40
Ninja Assassin: Thu (11/26)-Sun, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45; Mon-Thu (12/3), 7:05, 9:45
The Twilight Saga: New Moon: Thu (11/26)-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/3), 7:00, 10:00
Whip It: Thu (11/26), 2:00, 7:05

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10

North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.
The Blind Side: Thu (11/26), 11:15am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35pm; Fri-Sat, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35; Sun-Thu (12/3), 11:15am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35pm
***Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D):** Thu (11/26), 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20, 11:40; Sun-Thu (12/3), 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
The Men Who Stare at Goats: Thu (11/26), 10:30am, 12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35pm
Ninja Assassin: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40, 11:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/3), 10:30am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40pm
Old Dogs: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30pm; Sun-Thu (12/3), 11:00am, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25pm
Planet 51: Thu (11/26), 11:05am, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30pm; Fri-Sat, 11:05am, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30, 11:20pm; Sun-Thu (12/3), 11:05am, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30pm
Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire: Thu (11/26), 11:30am, 12:00, 1:55, 2:25, 4:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:25, 9:40pm; Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 12:00, 1:55, 2:25, 4:20, 4:50, 7:00, 7:15,

first runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ANTICHRIST D: Lars von Trier; with Willem Dafoe, Charlotte Gainsbourg. (NR, 104 min.)

Possibly the best argument against couples therapy ever, *Antichrist* is a tour-de-force trip inside the mind of a dangerously depressed man. That man is von Trier, and his film speaks the language of madness with astonishing fluency. Dreamlike and possessed of a terrible, doom-laden beauty, *Antichrist* is a flawed masterpiece and an example of highly personal auteurism that will either make you mad or drive you mad; either way, you're complicit in von Trier's vigorously compelling nightmare of love, death, and despair. Dafoe and Gainsbourg are fearless in their absolute commitment to their respective roles as He and She, a couple in the throes of immense, obliterating grief. They seek therapeutic escape at their cabin in the woods. He is a therapist and arrogantly assumes he can assuage She's pain in this act of withdrawal. But She is beyond such psychological salves, and, as von Trier steers his couple into the dark forest primeval, *Antichrist* becomes a genuine horror movie. (11/20/2009) - Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Ritz, Dobie

ASTRO BOY D: David Bowers; with the voices of Freddie Highmore, Nicolas Cage, Nathan Lane, Donald Sutherland, Kristen Bell, Eugene Levy, Bill Nighy, Samuel L. Jackson, Charlize Theron. (PG, 94 min.)

Osamu Tezuka's pioneering Japanese manga and animé series about the coolest robot kid ever finally achieves Americanized big-screen status. Although something has been lost in the translation, this *Astro Boy* remains true to the heart and soul of the original. Screenwriter Timothy Harris comes up with a few new twists on Tezuka's original - most notably the nascent romance between Astro and plucky surface-dweller Cora (Bell) - and this *Astro Boy* moves along at least as snappily as its rocket-powered protagonist. But ultimately, Bowers' take on the animé legend feels too indebted to the far superior *The Iron Giant* and overstreamlined in both story and animation. It's a totally serviceable reboot for young people who are just discovering the joys of manga, but I can't help but miss the raw animation and even rawer emotional aesthetics of the original televised animé series. (10/23/2009) - Marc Savlov
★★★ Hill Country Galleria

THE BLIND SIDE D: John Lee Hancock; with Sandra Bullock, Quinton Aaron, Tim McGraw, Kathy Bates, Jae Head, Lily Collins, Ray McKinnon, Kim Dickens. (PG-13, 126 min.)

Writer/director John Lee Hancock (*The Rookie*) overcomes most of the built-in problems inherent to inspirational sports dramas. Also in the film's plus column are two standout performances from Aaron, as the sweet-mannered but largely uncommunicative football player Michael (Aaron does some very subtle body work, using the way he carries his heft as an emotional signpost), and Bullock, as the prickly, straight-talking Memphis socialite who welcomes Michael into her home and eventually makes him a part of the family. This is a dream role for Bullock - finally, a job that requires her to be adult, tart, and smart, all at once - and she makes good use of it. It's not an altogether convincing portrait, but it is an entertaining, even moving one, and the forcefulness of her presence goes a long way in pulling the film back from the brink of coddliness. (11/20/2009) - Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE BOX D: Richard Kelly; with Cameron Diaz, James Marsden, Frank Langella, Sam Oz Stone, Gillian Jacobs, James Rebhorn. (PG-13, 115 min.)

Based very loosely on a short story by original *Twilight Zone* scribe Richard Matheson, *The Box* is a convoluted and capricious morality tale that cobbles together sci-fi, absent body parts, NASA, Sartre, and Cameron Diaz into a not-altogether-functional mix that is nevertheless creepy on its own terms. Or, really, Kelly's terms, which, as in his breakthrough hit *Donnie Darko*, are infused with surreal, dreamlike, and philosophical elements. Indeed, *The Box* has no shortage of interesting ideas simmering at its core. It's just that by the time the film ends, you're wondering what the point is. Kelly's writerly ambition gets the most of him here - most nonfan audiences will likely leave *The Box* baffled - as he layers on a deep-pile, Seventies shag rug's worth of ominous subplots that, while undoubtedly weird, has neither the interlocking backstory nor the off-kilter oddness of *Donnie Darko*. (11/13/2009) - Marc Savlov
★★ Tinseltown South

COUPLES RETREAT D: Peter Billingsley; with Vince Vaughn, Jason Bateman, Jon Favreau, Faizon Love, Malin Akerman, Kristin Davis, Kristen Bell, Kali Hawk, Jean Reno, Peter Serafinowicz, Carlos Ponce, John Michael Higgins, Ken Jeong. (PG-13, 113 min.)

Intelligence is insulted at every turn in this date movie from former "swingers" Vaughn and Favreau, who now write themselves roles as middle-aged men grown flabby in both body and spirit. Vaughn also produces and, as the film's top-lined star, plays the only happily married man in this story's quartet of couples who attend a weeklong couples retreat. Random sequences follow in succession: a badly choreographed shark attack, a massage that requires a self-serve happy ending, ridiculous therapy sessions, a Fabio look-alike yoga instructor (Ponce) who provides the requisite homophobic sight gags, and a renegade excursion to the singles side of the resort where, magically, everything resolves. Logic and credibility are defied at almost every opportunity. Even so, some of this might have worked if the script was, say, funny. The scenery looks good enough to be a screensaver, as one of the characters exclaims, and of course, the background offers an endless array of scantily clad hardbodies. (10/09/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten
● Tinseltown South

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL D: Robert Zemeckis; with Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Cary Elwes, Robin Wright Penn, Bob Hoskins, Daryl Sabara. (PG, 96 min.)

The initial "gee, whillikers" reaction to Zemeckis' motion-capture rendition of the Dickens classic eventually turns to "bah, humbug" as the film's technological novelty gives way to narrative mundanity. So absent is any emotional content that it's as though Dickens' ultimate cautionary tale is a mere afterthought onto which Zemeckis can drape his live-action/computer-animated visual hybrid that he has now used on his third sequential movie (following *Beowulf* and *The Polar Express*). Scrooge (Carrey) is still the same miserly old coot we know him to be, but instead of the transformative effect of Scrooge's glimpses into his past, present, and future, this film emphasizes the phantasmic elements of the ghosts and the pliable mechanics they use to show Scrooge such privileged viewpoints of his life. Carrey, never a slouch when it comes to his output, plays all three ghosts in addition to Scrooge. The actor sheds his usual silliness and adopts more of the tone and breeding of a British thespian. (11/06/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, IMAX Theatre, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

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OLD DOGS (PG) Fri. & Sat. 11:00 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:25 11:30
Sun. - Thu. 11:00 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:25

PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R) Fri. & Sat. 11:30 12:00 1:55 2:25 4:20 4:50 7:00 7:15 9:25 9:40 11:45
Sun. - Thu. 11:30 12:00 1:55 2:25 4:20 4:50 7:00 7:15 9:25 9:40

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:15 1:50 4:25 7:05 9:35 11:55
Sun. - Thu. 11:15 1:50 4:25 7:05 9:35

PLANET 51 (PG) Fri. & Sat. 11:05 1:10 3:15 5:20 7:25 9:30 11:20
Sun. - Thu. 11:05 1:10 3:15 5:20 7:25 9:30
DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20 11:40
Sun. - Thu. 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

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Electric Heart: Don Ellis

Electric Heart: Don Ellis (2008) D: John Vizzusi; narrated by Mary C. McKittrick. (NR, 70 min.) **Music Monday.** The underappreciated contributions of this trumpeter, composer, and bandleader, who created a unique jazz-fusion sound, are explored in this documentary. @Alamo Ritz, Monday, 9:45pm.

AN EDUCATION D: Lone Scherfig; with Carey Mulligan, Peter Sarsgaard, Alfred Molina, Cara Seymour, Dominic Cooper, Rosamund Pike, Olivia Williams, Emma Thompson. (PG-13, 95 min.)

Everything about Scherfig's coming-of-age story about a girl in the London suburb of Twickenham in 1961 is spot-on. The film tells a wonderfully nuanced story about a teenager's longing to break free of her provincial surroundings and enter the world at large. It's a story about her education in the university of life, an impartial proving ground that seduces many into its fold but whose revolving door is just as likely to hit you on the ass on the way out. With a steady but subtle hand, Scherfig directs the drama, which is based on a memoir by Lynn Barber and adapted for the screen by Nick Hornby. Crowning *An Education* is the central performance of Mulligan as 16-year-old Jenny: In this breakthrough role, the actress stuns us with a range that goes from dimpled schoolgirl to oh-so-sophisticated teen to Audrey Hepburn look-alike to disillusioned-but-wiser adult. (11/13/2009) — Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Arbor, Metropolitan

FAME D: Kevin Tancharoen; with Debbie Allen, Charles S. Dutton, Kelsey Grammer, Megan Mullally, Bebe Neuwirth, Kristy Flores, Paul Iacono, Paul McGill, Naturi Naughton, Kay Panabaker, Kherington Payne, Collins Pennie, Walter Perez, Anna Maria Perez de Tagle, Asher Book. (PG, 107 min.)

I can't pinpoint the exact moment when *Fame*'s not-unpromising start completely upends into a laughable train wreck, but watching it is not an unpleasurable experience, at least not if you have a soft spot for teen dance films from *Center Stage* to all things *Step* and *Stomp*. For me, for a movie to bomb, there has to be bad will there, some kind of an anti-humanist undercurrent, but there's none of that here: This "reinventing" of the original 1980s button-pushing saga of creative teens enrolled at New York City's High School of Performing Arts is a sweet, sloppy mess. As in the original, the story is told from freshman year to senior. The opening montage is a jazzy, grabby thing, artfully layering the kids' auditions to mimic the frenzied pace of the day. But that freneticism never really goes away, nor does the staccato timing. (10/02/2009) — Kimberley Jones
★★ Movies 8

THE FOURTH KIND D: Olatunde Osunsanmi; with Milla Jovovich, Elias Koteas, Will Patton, Hakeem Kae-Kazim. (PG-13, 98 min.)

The Fourth Kind is a pseudo-mockumentary that echoes both *The Blair Witch Project* and *The X-Files*. As a film, it's a canny little goof of a thing, chock-full of alien-abduction theorizing and purportedly based on actual events and persons which are incorporated into its weirdly effective hodgepodge of a structure. The aliens in *The Fourth Kind* don't come in peace, and they're more interested in torturing our nether regions than they are in meeting our leader. Jovovich "plays" Dr. Abigail Tyler (she also plays herself at the film's beginning and ending). She is a psychiatrist in Nome, Alaska, who notices a trend in her patients — and then in her own home — when various locals begin telling her about visitations by giant owls in the night. This is a strange movie (it feels like a lost episode of the old Leonard Nimoy chestnut *In Search of...*) about strange people doing strange things. (11/06/2009) — Marc Savlov
★★ Tinseltown South

G-FORCE D: Hoyt Yeatman; with Bill Nighy, Will Arnett, Zach Galifianakis, Kelli Garner, Gabriel Casseus, Jack Conley, Tyler Patrick Jones; with the voices of Nicolas Cage, Steve Buscemi, Tracy Morgan, Sam Rockwell, Penélope Cruz, Jon Favreau. (PG, 89 min.)

The adolescent ticket-taker at the matinee I attended told me I have pretty hair, and I nearly fell over — how often, really, are people kind without provocation? A little ashamed, I decided I was going to be a better person, starting right then and there — starting, in fact, with *G-Force*, a movie I had an hour before referred to, sight unseen, as "that god-damn gerbil spy movie." My first mistake: *G-Force* stars guinea pigs. My second mistake: I should have started this open-hearts policy in another 89 minutes, which is how long it takes to weather this technically competent if utterly artless family film from überproducer Jerry Bruckheimer. In its gadget-lust and obvious *Transformers* envy, *G-Force* is as loud and stupid as anything Michael Bay ever cooked up, and its characters' sketchings are similarly crude. But the real head-stumper is how so much time, effort, and money could be spent in the service of something so colossally dumb, vacant, and pointless. (07/31/2009) — Kimberley Jones
★ Movies 8

GOOD HAIR D: Jeff Stilson. (PG-13, 95 min.)

Hair is personal. It's also political. And it can be exceedingly expensive to maintain, especially if you're among the millions of African-American women (and, in far fewer numbers, men) who have their hair straightened in a salon or auxiliated with a weave. Chris Rock produced and co-wrote this documentary exploration of black hair and the booming industry that caters to it. The reedy comedian also appears on camera, affably interrogating everybody from Hollywood actresses to sketchy weave salesmen and



Adrift in Tokyo

Adrift in Tokyo (2007) D: Satoshi Miki; with Jo Odigiri, Tomakazu Miura, Kyoko Koizumi, Yuriko Yoshitaka. (NR, 101 min.) **Fantastic Fest Presents.** In this well-reviewed Japanese comedy, a slacker law student and his loanshark cut a deal that involves the debtor accompany his creditor on a walk around Tokyo. @Alamo Ritz, Tuesday, 7pm; Wednesday-Thursday, 4:10pm; free, priority admittance to 2010 badge holders.



My Life to Live

My Life to Live (1962) D: Jean-Luc Godard; with Anna Karina. (NR, 85 min.) **Austin Cinematheque.** In this early Godard film (aka *Vivre Sa Vie*), the director's then-wife Karina stars as a prostitute, whose situation is explored in socio-political terms over the course of 12 tableaux. Karina is perfect as the blasé streetwalker. @Texas Union Theatre, Monday, 7:30pm; free.

the bantering clientele of a New York barbershop. Rock feigns like he's impartial here, but it's pretty obvious he's aghast at the toxic chemicals required to straighten black hair — the look of which is repeatedly referred to by women in the film as "natural"; the examination of that paradoxical logic could fill another 90 minutes alone. Still, Rock never hectors; he makes his point, as befitting a crack comedian, in quick barbs and cutaway looks to the camera. (10/23/2009) — Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Tinseltown South

ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS D: Carlos Saldanha; with the voices of Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Denis Leary, Queen Latifah, Simon Pegg, Seann William Scott, Josh Peck, Chris Wedge. (PG, 93 min.)

3-D has finally found a home to call its own. Animated fare such as this third outing in the pre-historic, non-nuclear-family franchise use the stereoscopic fad to good effect, offering vertiginously dizzying flights with pterodactyls and toothy battles with the saurians of the title. Returning from the series' last installment are young woolly mammoths in love Manny (Romano) and Ellie (Latifah) and their extended, multispecies herd: insecure sloth Sid (Leguizamo), saber-toothed tiger Diego (Leary), and possums Eddie (Peck) and Crash (Scott). Joining them is newcomer Buck, a Melville-spouting mad weasel with an Ahab complex and the voice of Pegg. *Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs* doesn't have a lot more to say than it did last time about accepting a nontraditional family, but what it does have going for it are its well-delineated characters and a relatively sharp sense of the absurdities of the close-knit clan. That, and a love for dinosaurs, goes a long way. (07/10/2009) — Marc Savlov
★★ Movies 8

THE INVENTION OF LYING D: Ricky Gervais, Matthew Robinson; with Ricky Gervais, Jennifer Garner, Rob Lowe, Jonah Hill, Louis C.K., John Hodgman, Tina Fey, Christopher Guest, Jeffrey Tambor, Nathan Corrdry, Jason Bateman. (PG-13, 100 min.)

The Invention of Lying, Gervais' first feature film as a co-writer and co-director, is engaging and clever, if inconclusive. Gervais' real accomplishment, oft-overlooked, is as an actor, in how he can embody characters on a sliding scale of unlikability and bring humanity to them again and again. His *Invention of Lying* character, Mark Bellison, is a self-described "chubby little loser," an opinion he knows all about because in this alternate universe, lies don't exist and the truth is delivered regularly. Newly unemployed and snubbed by the woman of his dreams, Anna (Garner), for being a less-than-ideal "genetic partner," Mark is staring into the abyss when he discovers, quite by accident, the world's first lie. Although the film is very funny, there's nothing particularly incendiary, especially not when the romantic subplot shifts to the forefront. If anything, *The Invention of Lying* is too soft for the satirical promise of its premise. (10/09/2009) — Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Movies 8

JULIE & JULIA D: Nora Ephron; with Meryl Streep, Amy Adams, Stanley Tucci, Chris Messina, Linda Emond, Helen Carey, Jane Lynch, Mary Lynn Rajsckub. (PG-13, 123 min.)

Firstly, the introductions: Julia is Julia Child, that most beloved of chefs; Julie is Julie Powell, a disgruntled government worker who spent a year cooking her way through Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. As Julie does this, Ephron jogs the film back to the Fifties, exploring the origins of these recipes (and doing her best directorial work). Despite some surface similarities between Child and Powell, the two women couldn't be more opposite in temperament. Forget glass half-full or half-empty: The glass is nearly brimming over for Julia (Streep, irresistible), so sunny and spirited and utterly can-do is she. Meanwhile, Julie (Adams, flat and wan) is scraping bottom: Just shy of 30, she's sunk by depression, disappointment, and resentment. Adams, usually so good at corraling her handle-with-care looks and little-girl voice, is a mousy, grouchy irritant here. I'd trade her entire half of the film just to hear again Streep sing-song "Dommage!" in Child's froggy voice. Shame, indeed. (08/07/2009) — Kimberley Jones
★★ Movies 8

LAW ABIDING CITIZEN D: F. Gary Gray; with Jamie Foxx, Gerard Butler, Regina Hall, Colm Meaney, Bruce McGill, Leslie Bibb, Michael Irby. (R, 108 min.)

What to make of a film that opens with a brutal home invasion which leaves a mother and child dead and then uses that ghastly jumping-off point and all its circumlocutions — legal, moral, and mortal — as an assiduous flaying of the criminal justice system? Sounds promising so far, but *Law Abiding Citizen* ends on an even grimmer note, stuck fast between righteous indignation at our bankrupt system of jurisprudence and our (presumed) need for heroes. Butler turns a perfectly respectable, even riveting performance as the dead family's husband and father, who seeks a nominal form of justice via fast-rising D.A.'s assistant Nick Rice (Foxx). What he instead receives is a quick-and-dirty lesson in the painful subtleties and Faustian backroom dealings of the Philadelphia courts. Foxx has a thankless role here subbing for the entire justice system, and his main mode of expression is steely determination and precious little else. (10/16/2009) — Marc Savlov
★★ CM Round Rock, Metropolitan

THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS D: Grant Heslov; with George Clooney, Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges, Kevin Spacey, Stephen Lang, Robert Patrick, Waleed Zuaiter, Stephen Root. (R, 93 min.)

All goats aside, this is one odd duck. A title card reads, "More of this is true than you would believe," but it's impossible to tell what's factual in this fictionalized take on Jon Ronson's book about Army experiments in the paranormal because it all sounds so deeply ludicrous. It's never uninteresting — but never entirely successful, either. Reeling from his wife's infidelity, journalist Bob Wilton (McGregor) leaves his podunk paper in Ann Arbor, Mich., for Iraq, and bumps into the story of a lifetime, packaged neatly in the mustachioed frame of Clooney's Lyn Cassady, psychic spy. This is Heslov's first time directing, after co-writing and producing with Clooney *Good Night, and Good Luck.*, and there are too many tiny blunders to call his debut a triumph. Still, there is Clooney's deceptively layered performance, some startling bits of laugh-out-loud absurdity, and the not-at-all-negligible pleasure to be had in a cockeyed point of view. (11/06/2009) — Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Dobie, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE MESSENGER D: Oren Moverman; with Woody Harrelson, Ben Foster, Samantha Morton, Jena Malone, Eamonn Walker, Steve Buscemi. (R, 105 min.)

There exists a gulf between those who return home from war and those who have never been, a divide that's grown particularly profound in the last couple of decades. *The Messenger*, as its name implies, seeks to communicate across those gaps. In his directorial debut, Moverman gives us

two memorable characters who jump into the communication breach and lead the way. Staff Sgt. Will Montgomery (Foster) and Tony Stone (Harrelson), who are stationed in New Jersey at Fort Dix, are members of a "casualty notification" team that informs deceased soldiers' next of kin of their loved ones' deaths. Foster and Harrelson are both stunningly effective in their roles. The script by Moverman and Alessandro Camon is replete with smart, crisp dialogue. Although a fumbling attraction between Will and a widow (Morton) is a little overplayed, there is not a false note in the relationship between the two men. (11/20/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten
 ★★★★★ Arbor

MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT

D: Kenny Ortega. (PG, 111 min.)
 Michael Jackson's posthumously released film about the preparations for his 50-concert comeback extravaganza is a strange creature indeed. Neither a true concert film nor a strict behind-the-scenes documentary, *This Is It* is, like Jackson himself, a real hybrid. It is primarily a rehearsal film made up of lots of grainy footage, which Ortega has edited together seamlessly, of the King of Pop practicing his performance and blocking out routines with the dancers and musicians. We rarely witness Jackson giving 100% though: He frequently comments that he is saving his voice

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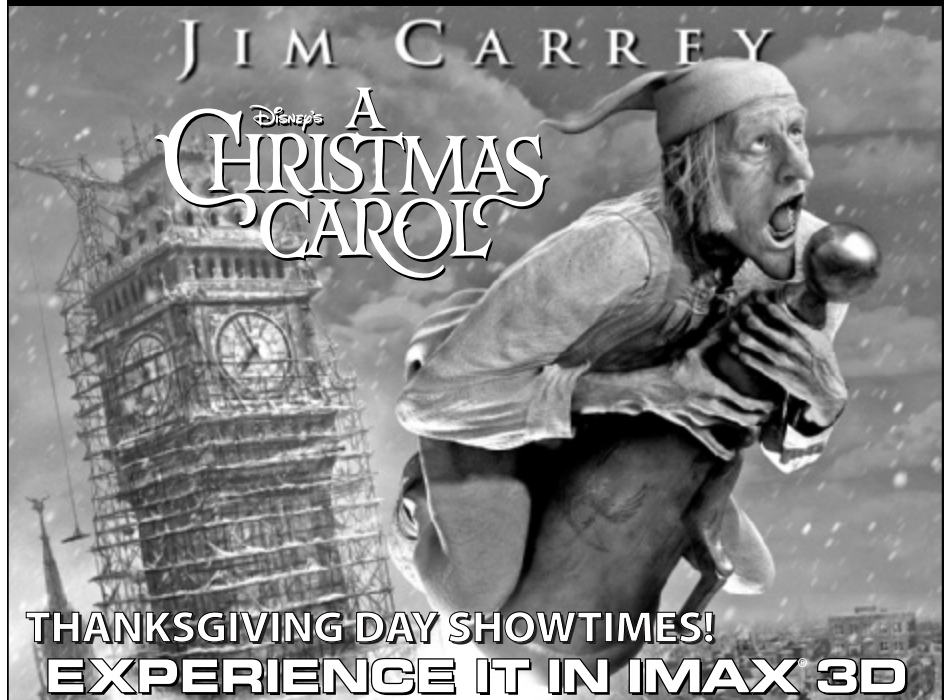
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and body for the actual performances. Jackson certainly can't be faulted for this, but it's questionable whether he would really want his fans to see him thus. Don't get me wrong: 60% of Michael Jackson is still a pretty good thing, and sometimes the performances even rise above that level. The most interesting aspect of *This Is It* is the chance to see Jackson, the noted perfectionist, at work. (10/30/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Tinseltown South

9 D: Shane Acker; with the voices of Elijah Wood, Christopher Plummer, Martin Landau, John C. Reilly, Jennifer Connelly, Crispin Glover. (PG-13, 79 min.)

9 is a beautifully animated (in CGI) but narratively compromised fable about - sort of - societal cooperation and the virtues of steampunk stitchery over cyberpunk soldering. Or maybe not. It's hard to tell what the moral message is, other than "it's good to work together to achieve your goals" or "don't press random buttons unless you know what they might do." What 9 inarguably is is a feature-length retelling of director Acker's 2005 Academy Award-nominated short film of the same name. As in the original, the principal characters - numbered 1 through 9 - are stitched-together mechanical rag dolls in varying degrees of soiled disuse, existing in a postapocalyptic wasteland. Acker's original was a darkly whimsical blend of CGI wizardry and silent film tropes; in this expanded version, new characters are introduced and expanded upon, but such additions only serve to expose the seams in what was previously a seamlessly magical tale. (09/11/2009) - Marc Savlov
★★★ Movies 8

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY D: Oren Peli; with Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat, Michael Bayouth. (R, 96 min.)

Don't believe the hype: *Paranormal Activity* may be a lot of things, but the words "scary" and "movie" are not among them. It is instead nothing more or less than an excruciatingly tedious YouTube gag cleverly marketed to go viral in the broadest and most box-office-friendly way. (On the other hand, Paramount's midnight-screening, street-team hype machine is to be congratulated for pulling such a fast one on both audiences and critics alike.) Like *The Blair Witch Project*, its far creepier antecedent, *Paranormal Activity* purports to exist as actual found footage - the opening text says it was discovered by the San Diego Police Department - but that's no excuse for foisting a poorly acted (whoops! make that "realistic"), shoddily conceived, anti-art-directed nonstarter that pays off only in its final 10 seconds on a gullible moviegoing public that only wants to have its collective hair raised. At 96 minutes, it's at least 90 minutes too long. (10/09/2009) - Marc Savlov
Metropolitan

PIRATE RADIO D: Richard Curtis; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Bill Nighy, Rhys Ifans, Nick Frost, Kenneth Branagh, Tom Sturridge, Talulah Riley, January Jones, Emma Thompson. (R, 116 min.)

Despite a title change from *The Boat That Rocked* to *Pirate Radio*, this British import exudes about as much outlaw swagger as Tom DeLay in a dance competition. Forget about historical veracity in which this film's offshore radio broadcasting ship is a fictional stand-in for the actual operation, *Radio Caroline*, which was shut down by the British government in 1967. The politics of *Pirate Radio* never get any weightier than its general oppositional tone of Us against the Man. And when it comes to the old sex, drugs, and rock & roll equation, writer-director Curtis (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) pretty much leaves out the middle entity: drugs. However, the biggest problem with *Pirate Radio* is its lax narrative structure. The film is a series of episodic scenes which spotlight a host of characters who, without narrative material, become a mere collection of quirks, costumes, and gestures. This is all the more frustrating because the performances are good. (11/13/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten
★★ Arbor, Westgate

PLANET 51 D: Jorge Blanco; with the voices of Dwayne Johnson, Jessica Biel, Justin Long, Gary Oldman, Seann William Scott, John Cleese. (PG, 91 min.)

Planet 51 is innocuous to the point of distraction. While the CG animation is colorful and vibrant, the story is little more than a compilation of science-fiction clichés. *Planet 51*'s main gag is the reversal of the ancient (by Hollywood standards, anyway) genre convention of society's fear of alien invasion. Here, it's the green-skinned, droopily antennae'd *aliens* who are terrified of a lone human spaceman (Johnson), who crash-lands into their world. In a sop to Hollywood's golden age of science-fiction filmmaking, the whole planet closely parallels Fifties Americana, right down to the *Happy Days* slang and the monster-movie matinees playing at the local movie theatre. I could go on and on about *Planet 51*'s multitude of direct references to its sci-fi antecedents, but the bottom line is that *Planet 51*, while expertly executed animation-wise and passably entertaining for very young kids (less so, their parents), is still as dull as the hull on *Rocketship X-M*. (11/20/2009) - Marc Savlov
★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ **PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL 'PUSH' BY SAPPHIRE**

D: Lee Daniels; with Gabourey Sidibe, Mo'Nique, Paula Patton, Mariah Carey, Sherri Shepherd, Lenny Kravitz. (R, 109 min.)

Much like its title protagonist Precious - a sexually, emotionally, and physically abused 16-year-old African-American girl who is functionally illiterate, morbidly obese, and pregnant with her second child fathered by her own father - this film is a rough-hewn entity with unlikely odds for success. Yet both the character and the movie overcome their handicaps to become the kind of success stories that the American mythmaking machinery loves to love. Claireece Precious Jones (Sidibe) and her mother, Mary (Mo'Nique), are women we rarely notice. But instead of looking the other way, this movie and the popular book on which it is based place them front and center. Newcomer Sidibe is a real find and not just a looming presence and narrative device. Daniels has also done a marvelous job of casting famous friends of his and getting heart-stirring, stripped-down performances from them all. Despite achieving such a remarkably raw and naturalistic tone, Daniels ups the ante with extreme melodramatic touches. (11/20/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Highland, Tinseltown North



★ **Shadows in Paradise**

Shadows in Paradise (1986) D: Aki Kaurismäki; with Matti Pellonpää, Kati Outinen, Sakari Kuosmanen, Esko Nikkari. (NR, 76 min.) **Austin Film Society: The Chilly Humorist of Finland - Aki Kaurismäki.** A lonely garbageman can't manage to get ahead in life. A woman who gets fired from every job then plays him for a sap. Still, there might exist something between these two. Kaurismäki's early films, such as this one, are pure bursts of his filmmaking aesthetic. @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm.



★ **Money-Driven Medicine**

Money-Driven Medicine (2009) D: Andrew Fredericks. (NR, 86 min.) The documentary is a comprehensive analysis of the systemic causes of America's high medical costs and poor quality of care. It is produced by documentary Oscar winner Alex Gibney and based on author Maggie Mahar's book. Following the screenings, there will be a Q&A with representatives from Consumers Union and the Center for Public Policy Priorities. @Texas Capitol Auditorium, Wednesday, 10am; Millennium, Wednesday, 7pm; free.

★ **A SERIOUS MAN** D: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen; with Michael Stuhlbarg, Fred Melamed, Richard Kind, Aaron Wolff, Sari Lennick, Jessica McManus, Adam Arkin, Alan Mandell, Amy Landecker. (R, 105 min.)

Embrace paradox; accept life's mysteries: These are some of the things that serious men learn. God owes us bukbes in the way of answers. With *A Serious Man*, the Coen brothers have made one of their best and most personal movies. It is rich with ideas and contemplations and packed with the sort of existential jokes that tickle the Coen boys so. The setting echoes the Minneapolis suburb of the Coen brothers' youth, circa 1967, and captures with perfection the sound and the look of Jewish-American culture of that period. As for narrative structure, *A Serious Man* is as much the biblical story of Job as *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* is a Homeric odyssey. Larry Gopnik (Stuhlbarg) is the story's de facto Job, to whom a plague of troubles comes. Actions have consequences, we are told, although it seems that inaction can mess you up, too. *A Serious Man* will keep Coenheads engaged through many viewings. (10/16/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Arbor

SHORTS D: Robert Rodriguez; with Jimmy Bennett, Jon Cryer, William H. Macy, Leslie Mann, James Spader, Kat Dennings, Jolie Vanier, Trevor Gagnon, Devon Gearhart, Leo Howard, Rebel Rodriguez. (PG, 89 min.)

This time around it's another family film for Rodriguez, whose filmmaking career at this point has two modes: kid pics and grisly adult fare. All are comedic action romps highlighted by their homegrown flavor of technological wizardry and Rodriguez's near-total creative control. (In *Shorts*, Rodriguez is listed as the film's writer, director, co-producer, cinematographer, co-editor, and contributing music composer.) The story follows tweener Toe (Bennett), who finds a multicolored stone that can grant every wish - a wishing rock that creates

havoc as it passes from hand to hand. The story structure is kiddie postmodern, as the film cuts forward and backward in chapters as events rewind or fast-forward as though controlled by a digital switch (hence the title *Shorts*). The action never pauses long enough to become tiresome, though most of the film's rude humor is directed squarely at young viewers' sensibilities. Parents will, no doubt, be renting this electronic babysitter for a long time to come. (08/21/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Movies 8

SURROGATES D: Jonathan Mostow; with Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell, Ving Rhames, Rosamund Pike, James Cromwell, Boris Kodjoe. (PG-13, 89 min.)

In a Philip K. Dickian twist on Ram Dass' "Be here now" slogan and thanks to robotic surrogates and fancy tanning-bed/Barcalounger virtual reality units, the characters in this sublimely silly scrap of sci-fi filmmaking can be somewhere else now. And, more to the point, they can also be someone else now. This is a ridiculous and badly conceived variation on David Cronenberg's *Videodrome*. Willis is a Boston FBI agent who uncovers a plot to kill billions of people in their homes by frying the circuits of their robotic surrogates. "But why?" you ask. Although the script (adapted from the graphic novel) by Michael Ferris and John Brancato tries mightily hard to make a compelling argument along the quasi-Luddite lines of "sexy robots bad; ugly humans good," it's nothing that hasn't been done countless times before. *Surrogates*' morality is less Asimov than asinine. (10/02/2009) - Marc Savlov
Metropolitan Movies 8

2012 D: Roland Emmerich; with John Cusack, Amanda Peet, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Thandie Newton, Danny Glover, Woody Harrelson, Oliver Platt, Zlatko Buric, Beatrice Rosen, Liam James, Morgan Lily. (PG-13, 158 min.)

Life is simple in Emmerich's films. Confronted with unprecedented perils, the characters in his disaster epics manage to reaffirm their broken loves, make amends for slipshod parenting, and, most impressively, outrun fireballs and certain death with their hides and wits intact. Emmerich takes the disaster-movie genre to its logical conclusion in *2012*, obliterating or reconfiguring vast swaths of the planet's surface (solar storms boil the Earth's core; tectonic havoc ensues) and providing a 158-minute thrill ride that zips by like the real thing. Over the duration, there are homages (or lifts) to apocalyptic exercises of decades past (particularly *When Worlds Collide*) and plenty of cheeky references to Emmerich's own resumé. *2012* is PTSD - Popcorn Thrills and Sappy meloDrama - supersized to counter current real-world terrors, and it is, by turns, thrilling, ridiculous (the script, by Emmerich and longtime co-writer Harald Kloser, is riddled with howlingly goofy lines and seriously improbable deus-ex-machina moments), and just plain big, dumb fun. (11/13/2009) - Marc Savlov
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF D: Tyler Perry; with Perry, Taraji P. Henson, Brian White, Hope Olaide Wilson, Adam Rodriguez, Mary J. Blige, Kwesi Boakye, Frederick Siglar, Gladys Knight. (PG-13, 113 min.)

This latest offering from Perry, a veritable one-man movie factory, continues a trend toward increasingly mature moviemaking. Yes, we still get Perry vamping as Madea, that hulking, house-coated nag, but only in brief, giggling jags that break up a melodrama about familial duties and self-actualization. When their grandmother goes missing, Jennifer (Wilson) and her younger brothers are dumped on the doorstep of Aunt April (Henson), a hard-drinking torch singer not at all interested in her new gig as de facto guardian. Reluctantly, April must kick open the doors to both her home and her deeply hardened heart. But not at first: If Henson (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*) weren't such a likable screen presence, her character would be difficult to tolerate, so screechy and unsympathetic is she.

Redemption, of course, is inevitable – and Perry frankly takes too much time getting there – but *I Can Do Bad* benefits from a number of musical performances. (09/18/2009) – Kimberley Jones
 ★★★ Movies 8

★ WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE D: Spike Jonze; with Max Records, Catherine Keener, Mark Ruffalo, Pepita Emmerichs, Steve Mouzakis; with the voices of James Gandolfini, Lauren Ambrose, Paul Dano, Catherine O'Hara, Chris Cooper, Forest Whitaker. (PG, 94 min.)

This is a freewheeling but tonally and aesthetically true adaptation of Maurice Sendak's 1963 children's book. Jonze, in collaboration with co-screenwriter Dave Eggers, seems to have tapped every primal feeling along the spectrum – joy, grief, rage, a relish for mayhem – and put it onscreen for our viewing pleasure. And a pleasure it is – the rare children's film that isn't coded for adults or made corny and flip for kids. Working with Jim Henson's Creature Shop and adapting quite literally Sendak's original etchings, Jonze has put to film what generations of children have only dreamed about: the nearness and *dearness* of Sendak's woolly beasts. One of the many delights of the film is in how *physical* it is (somebody is always pummeling somebody else and then following the beating with a bruising bear hug). There are minor grievances with the film, all technical, but they frankly feel inconsequential when put next to the film's over-all effect. (10/16/2009) – Kimberley Jones
 ★★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Metropolitan

★ ZOMBIELAND D: Ruben Fleischer; with Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, Abigail Breslin, Amber Heard. (R, 87 min.)

No spoilers here, but first things first: *Zombieland* has the single most outrageously entertaining and unexpected celebrity cameo of *any* film – genre or otherwise – this filmgoer has seen in a long, long time. It's not a sequence that makes or breaks the film, but it *does* tip *Zombieland* over the edge of zomcom ordinariness into something considerably weirder and therefore more fun. Debuting director Fleischer's action-and-innards-drenched film dials it all up to 11 from the opening credits sequence – which uses pop-music-backed mayhem to smart expository and staggeringly kickass effect – and only slows down for a breather for the length of the aforementioned cameo. Storywise, there's precious little going on here that we haven't seen before, but Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick's archly hip and often downright hilarious script, combined with a quartet of seamless performances and enough cranial destruction to sate even the most diehard *Fangoria* reader, makes for one hell of a wild ride. (10/02/2009) – Marc Savlov
 ★★★★★ Movies 8, Tinseltown South



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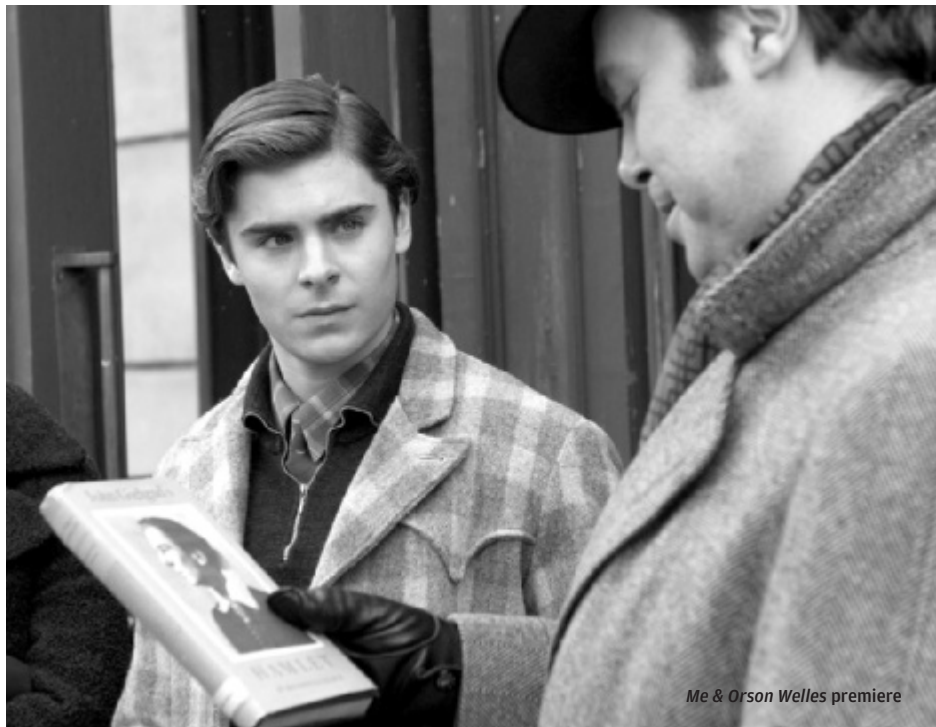
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Me & Orson Welles premiere

THURSDAY 26

Planes, Trains & Automobiles Thanksgiving Feast (1987) D: John Hughes; with Steve Martin, John Candy. (R, 93 min.) **Big Screen Classics.** Candy and Martin star as unlikely travel companions just trying to get home for Thanksgiving. There's no better comedy for this particular holiday. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

FRIDAY 27

Horrible Turn is a fan-made, wholly unauthorized prequel to Josh Whedon's short film, *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*, which is distributed exclusively on the Internet. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

Planes, Trains & Automobiles (1987) D: John Hughes; with Steve Martin, John Candy, Laila Robins, Michael McKean, Kevin Bacon, Dylan Baker. (R, 93 min.) **Big Screen Classics.** Candy and Martin star as unlikely travel companions just trying to get home for Thanksgiving. There's no better comedy for this particular holiday. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

"A Hero's Welcome" (2009) D: Javier Sanchez. (NR, 47 min.) This documentary about Gainesville, Texas, the only Medal of Honor host city currently in the U.S., focuses on centenarian Lt. John Finn, the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient, and interviews other medal recipients and townsfolk. @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm.

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) D: John Lewis and Patrick Fries; narrated by Ray Willie Hubbard. (NR, 22 min.) See Texans struggle with nature – on the big screen and with immersive sound. The film features a score by David Hamburger and performances by Omar Kent Dykes, Toni Price, and Carolyn Wonderland. @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 1:30, 2:30, 2:30, 3:30, 3:30, 4:30, 4:30pm.

SATURDAY 28

Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater. The seasonal show features the Master Pancake regulars and clips from favorite holiday TV specials and other weird holiday programs. Owen Egerton and regulars John Erler and Joe Parsons orchestrate the fun. @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10pm.

Condorman (1981) D: Charles Jarrott; with Michael Crawford, Oliver Reed, Barbara Carrera, James Hampton. (PG, 90 min.) **Kids Club.** This goofy-fun action-comedy for kids boasts sexy Soviet double-agents, glass-eye goons, Oliver Reed, and the future Phantom of the Opera as a cartoonist who accidentally stumbles into the spy game. Everybody together now: Condor Man! @Alamo Drafrthouse South, 11am; free.

Grey Gardens (1975) D: David Maysles and Albert Maysles. (PG, 100 min.) The eccentric aunt and cousin of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis are captured on film in this historic documentary by the Maysles brothers. Their fly-on-the-wall filming techniques reveal a decay that infuses both their inner and outer worlds. @Alamo Ritz, 4pm.

Planes, Trains & Automobiles (1987) @Alamo Ritz, 1:20pm. (See Friday.)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for more than 30 years straight. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafrthouse Village, 12mid.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 11 issue is Monday, Nov. 30.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

SPACES

"A Hero's Welcome" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Friday.)

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Friday.)

SUNDAY 29

Lord of the Rings Trilogy Hobbit Feast D: Peter Jackson; with Elijah Wood. Twelve hours, three movies, seven meals. Sold out. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30am.

SPACES

"A Hero's Welcome" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 5pm. (See Friday.)

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Friday.)

MONDAY 30

Délice Paloma (2007) D: Nadir Mokneche; with Biyouna, Nadia Kaci, Aylin Prandi, Daniel Lundh. (NR, 134 min.) **Cinéma Français Today Film Festival.** Set in contemporary Algeria, this film tells the eventful story of a female scam artist's history, along with that of her colorful cohorts. A discussion with invited speakers will follow. @Dobie, 7pm; free.

Electric Heart: Don Ellis (2008) See p.88.

Me & Orson Welles Premiere (2009) D: Richard Linklater; with Zac Efron, Christian McKay, Claire Danes, Ben Chaplin. **Austin Film Society.** Linklater's latest film is a coming-of-age story set amid Welles' 1937 Mercury Theater group. Co-stars Efron and McKay will join Linklater for the screening and a Q&A at its conclusion. The event benefits the Texas Filmmakers Production Fund. Tickets are available through the Paramount box office and ProTix. See www.austinfilm.org. @Paramount, 7pm.

My Life to Live (1962) See p.88.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (1990) D: Steve Barron; with Judith Hoag, Elias Koteas, Robbie Rist, Kevin Clash, Brian Tochi, David McCharen, Corey Feldman. (PG, 93 min.) **Pizza Party.** All-you-can-eat pizza, nature's perfect food. All ages welcome. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

"A Hero's Welcome" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Friday.)

Office Space (1999) D: Mike Judge; with Ron Livingston, Jennifer Aniston, Gary Cole, Stephen Root, Ajay Naidu, David Herman, Diedrich Bader, John C. McGinley, Paul Willson. (R, 89 min.) **Mundi Movie Madness.** Outdoors; free. (*) @Cafe Mundi, 8pm.

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Friday.)

TUESDAY 01

Adrift in Tokyo (2007) See p.88.

Shadows in Paradise (1986) See p.90.

Tremors (1990) D: Ron Underwood; with Kevin Bacon, Fred Ward, Finn Carter, Michael Gross, Reba McEntire. (PG-13, 96 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** This story about wriggly monsters from beneath the earth resembles the classic monster movies of the Fifties. A good cast keeps the above-ground energy high, and the below-ground creepy crawlies are plenty scary. @Alamo Ritz, 8:45pm.

SPACES

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Friday.)

WEDNESDAY 02

Adrift in Tokyo (2007) @Alamo Ritz, 4:10pm; free, priority admittance to 2010 badge holders. (See Tuesday.)

Humble Pie (2009) D: Chris Bowman; with Hubbel Palmer, William Baldwin, Mary Lynn Rajsckub, Kathleen Quinlan. (PG-13, 84 min.) Written by and starring Sasquatch Gang co-star Hubbel Palmer, this comedy (aka *American Fork*) tells the story of an overweight food-stocking professional who seeks artistic outlets. @Alamo Drafrthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm.

Mighty Peking Man (1977) D: Ho Meng-Hua; with Chen Ping, Hsiao Yao, Steve Nicholson, Ted Thomas, Hang-Sheng Wu, Hsu Shao-Chiang, Lin Wei-Tu, Ku Feng, Evelyn Kraft, Danny Lee. (PG-13, 91 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** This 1977 Shaw Brothers production from Hong Kong is a gleefully silly riff on everything monster-movie and was re-released under the auspices of Quentin Tarantino in 1999. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

offscreen

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. 485-3000. www.501studios.com.

Austin FilmWorks: Feature Lab is now accepting registrations for the new class sequence, in which filmmaker Steve Mims requires students to produce two short films and play a key role in a class-produced feature-length film. See website for details. www.austinfilmworks.com.

Austin School of Film Classes An excellent slate of classes is available for your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film, with professional instruction in Final Cut Pro, DV and HD cameras, animation and lighting techniques, and more. See website for details. www.austinfilmsschool.org/classes.

ChannelAustin Classes Austin's digital media center offers filmmakers professional hands-on instruction in HD field equipment and studio production, plus affordable access to the latest high-end gear and software by Sony and Apple. Learn more on Mondays from 6 to 7pm. See website for details. 1143 Northwestern Ave. www.channelaustin.org.

Cine las Americas 13: Call for Entries Cine las Americas invites filmmakers, producers, and distributors to participate in the showcase of contemporary films from North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean; and the Iberian Peninsula, as well as works made by or about Latinos and/or indigenous groups of the Americas. See website for details. Deadline: Jan. 15, 2010. www.cinelasamericas.org.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

The Screenplay Workshop: Winter Classes Fundamentals Tuesdays, Jan. 19-Feb. 16, 7-9:30pm or Saturdays, Jan. 23-Feb. 20, 1:30-4pm. \$225 (\$210 through Dec 30). **Master Class** Tuesdays, Jan. 19-March 23, 7-9:30pm or Saturdays, Jan. 23-March 27, 1:30-4pm. \$395 (\$370 through Dec 30). **Introductory Script Consultation** A 1½-hour private consultation on your screenplay or screenplay ideas. \$70. **Private Instruction and Story Consultation** Five sessions, 90 minutes per session. \$370. All classes taught by professional screenwriters. See website for details. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

Money-Driven Medicine (2009) See p.90.

Road House (1989) D: Rowdy Herrington; with Patrick Swayze, Kelly Lynch, Sam Elliott, Ben Gazzara. (R, 114 min.) **Master Pancake: Benefit for Pancreatic Cancer Research.** The Pancake cutups hurl their commentary at one of the easiest-to-ridicule films ever, in which Swayze plays an itinerant Zen bouncer. All proceeds will benefit pancreatic cancer research. @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10pm.

SPACES

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Friday.)

THURSDAY 03

1997 Sing-Along Action Pack.
@Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Adrift in Tokyo (2007) See p.88.

The Christmas Sweater: A Return to Redemption NCM Fathom. Glenn Beck's stage show based on his inspirational novel returns to the atres this year in remastered form. After the show, which was recorded live during his 2008 tour, Beck will introduce several people who were touched by the story about transformation and redemption. A repeat presentation of this show is also scheduled for Dec. 10. @CM Cedar Park, Tinseltown North, Metropolitan, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Monsoon Wedding (2001) D: Mira Nair; with Rajat Kapoor, Kamini Khanna, Parvin Dabas, Vasundhara Das, Tiltama Shome, Vijay Raaz, Shefali Shetty, Lillete Dubey, Naseeruddin Shah. (R, 113 min.) **It's Bigger Than You: Bollywood Film Series Fundraiser.** Tickets available at www.itsbiggerthanyou.org/2009/08/bollywood-film-series. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 6:30pm.

SPACES

"Wild Texas Weather" (2009) @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Friday.)

imax

Disney's A Christmas Carol (2009)
D: Robert Zemeckis; with Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Cary Elwes, Robin Wright Penn, Bob Hoskins, Daryl Sabara. (PG, 96 min.) See review. (*) Thu. (11/26)-Thu. (12/3), 1, 3, 5, 7, 9pm.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Fri.-Sat., 10am; Mon.-Thu. (12/3), 10am.

The Alps (2007) D: Stephen Judson; narrated by Michael Gambon. (NR, 45 min.) John Harlin III attempts to climb the North Face of the Eiger, the site of his father's death 40 years earlier. The music is by rock band Queen. Fri.-Sat., noon; Mon.-Thu. (12/3), noon.

Under the Sea 3D (2009) D: Howard Hall. (NR, 40 min.) The impact of global warming is examined in the waters of Southern Australia, New Guinea, and elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific region. Fri.-Sat., 11am; Mon.-Thu. (12/3), 11am.

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RECOMMENDED EVENTS FOR NOV. 27 TO DEC. 3

music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings



Cafe Tacuba

La Zona Rosa, Sunday 29

"In the middle of this year, we turned 20 as a group," explains Cafe Tacuba bassist Enrique "Quique" Rangel in Spanish from a tour stop in

Vegas. "To mark it we played 20 dates in 20 cities, but that generated so much interest that we set aside the end of the year to go to some of the places we didn't visit. This tour is an extension of those dates."

Decades have a way with change, from an escalating drug war ("We went to Ciudad Juárez recently, and I'd never seen armed military patrols cruising the streets in broad daylight") to an African-American elected president of the United States ("I couldn't fathom in what moment that could happen"). Through it all, four friends from Mexico City made forward-thinking electro-rock music of uncommon intelligence and eclecticism.

"Never would I have guessed that we'd last this long," acknowledges Rangel. "This didn't become our careers by accident, but rather by good fortune. I saw this as a group

that would last two or three years while we finished school and prepared careers, and yet it's still fun. It's still fun, but it became our job."

Bands are marriages, no? "There's a part where it can seem like a relationship," he laughs. "There are a lot of negotiations, a lot of compromises. But in the end, the most important thing is that we continue to enjoy this. We established a mutual admiration, and we've done it to a point where there's enough room for all of us to express ourselves individually."

So, another 20 years! "I don't know about another 20 years," he chortles, "but we'll continue, and if the music keeps moving forward and we keep enjoying ourselves — getting into studios and cutting songs — I'm sure we'll last another good long time."

— Raoul Hernandez

J. TILLMAN Mohawk, Friday 27

The newest member of Fleet Foxes, J. Tillman moves mountains with acoustic balladry on par with bandmate Robin Pecknold. *Vacilando Territory Blues* and *Year in the Kingdom*, both released this year on Austin's Western Vinyl, proved complementary, pastoral and ruminative hymnal blues of staggering beauty, delivered with unnerving poise. Tillman's promising backing band, Seattle's Pearly Gate Music, bows first, while dreamy, mid-fi pop outfit Real Estate provides the nightcap inside later.

— Austin Powell

A SUNNY DAY IN GLASGOW The Ghost Room, Friday 27

Philly dream weavers ASDIG have gone through quite a few lineup changes since 2007's radiant *Scribble Mural Comic Journal*. What hasn't changed with latest *Ashes Grammar* is the music: 1960s harmonies and 1980s electronica submerged under a warm blanket of reverb. It can be a large, unidentifiable mass of sounds at times, but close listening pays off. Locals MothFight! and Fach Idiot open.

— Audra Schroeder

SKATALITES Flamingo Cantina, Friday 27 & Saturday 28

Providing the blueprint that spawned hundreds of bands over three generations and still counting, the Skatalites stand as the undisputed masters of ska. Forty-five years in, these Jamaicans groove it in its purest form. The amazing drummer Lloyd Knibb continues propelling the band after all these years, and original vocalist Doreen Schaffer remains a delight. Glory be the sound.

— Jay Trachtenberg

MARDUK, NACHTMYSTIUM Red 7, Saturday 28

The US Plague 2009 tour infects a seven-act metal drama on turkey weekend high Saturday night thanks to anti-Christian black and death metal Swedes Marduk, now nearing the two-decade mark of spewing musical blasphemy that includes Nazi book burning. *Wormwood* is this year's propaganda. Such associations got Chicago black metal psyches Nachtmystium booted off the Scion Rock Fest lineup this spring. Averse Sefira, Mantic Ritual, Merrimack, Nodens, and Ancient Malus add offense first.

— Raoul Hernandez



Things to be Thankful for at
austinchronicle.com/earache

OLD CANES Emo's, Saturday 28

Applesseed Cast frontman Chris Crisci leaves his Lawrence, Kan., bandmates behind and rolls solo as Old Canes. The result is latest *Feral Harmonic* (Saddle Creek), a toe-tappin', pass-the-hat collection of folk sing-alongs and acoustic basement experiments, the kind Saddle Creek collects like lint in a belly button. Locals Haunting Oboe Music headline; the Always Already and Abby Birds open.

— Audra Schroeder

LITTLE DRAGON Emo's, Monday 30

Hot on the heels of fellow Swede Lykke Li's ABBA-dabba dance dance comes Little Dragon's four-on-the-floor revolution. The Gothenburg quartet's latest, *Machine Dreams*, tests the waters then cannonballs into off-the-shoulder jams, helmed by the soulful Yukimi Nagano. Car Stereo (Wars) works the room.

— Audra Schroeder

METRIC/WHIGS/ CAGE THE ELEPHANT La Zona Rosa/Emo's/Antone's, Tuesday 1

Perfect road show collision No. 9,039, with 30 years of indie roots scattered at our crash site. Toronto four Metric channels New Wave with its banging Blondie insouciance, while Athens, Ga., trio the Whigs punches out 1990s song punk readying a follow-up to breakthrough *Mission Control*. Bowling Green, Ky., fivepiece Cage the Elephant, signed out of South by Southwest '07, rocks roots reminiscent of what happened recently when Kings of Leon became the UK's new Oasis.

— Raoul Hernandez

SKINNY PUPPY Emo's, Wednesday 2

It's been 25 years since cEvin Key and Nivek Ogre, two Vancouver industrialists with a passion for all things red and sticky, formed this iconic band of misfit terror toys. Defying multiple breakup/reformations and internecine skirmishes that would flay other groups, most recent LP *Mythmaker* and the forthcoming *In Solvent See* continue to rape eardrums.

— Marc Savlov

DIANNE REEVES One World Theatre, Thursday 3

Now that Norah Jones has rightly gone singer-songwriter, elegant rooms return focus to a previous generation of jazz singers swishing into the spotlight with some of that old black magic. Detroit-tough Dianne Reeves can cut you scattin' or cooing, and returning to the One World with her *Christmas Time Is Here* show toasts nicely with the venue's preconcert meals and vino. Pair of shows, 7 & 9:30pm.

— Raoul Hernandez

soundcheck BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

NEON INDIAN Stubb's, Friday 27

Alan Palomo programs *Psychic Chasms*. Tunnels vision first.

ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO Continental Club, Friday 27 & Saturday 28

Velvet pants is on a roll. Greyhounds liquor up first Friday, Grady Saturday.

CURSIVE Mohawk, Saturday 28

Omaha rocks, and we don't mean Moby Grape.

VOODOO GLOW SKULLS Red 7, Sunday 29

Hope they got here Saturday to see the Skatalites.

JACKSON BROWNE Bass Concert Hall, Monday 30 The Pretender returns.

DEL THA FUNKEE HOMOSAPIEN Aces Lounge, Tuesday 1

One-hitter of hip-hop central.

SHELLEY KING CD RELEASE Cactus Cafe, Wednesday 2

Munch some "Texas Platters," p.72.

TOMMY CASTRO Saxon Pub, Thursday 3

Cali blues for Chicago and the Southwest.

BOWLING FOR SOUP Emo's, Thursday 3

See Voodoo Glow Skulls above. Riddlin' Kids, Smile Smile, and Cruiserweight prep.

MONAHANS

Mohawk, Thursday 3
Friday Night Lights on Thursday, West Texas roots style, plus Distant Seconds and Pons.

live music venues p.96
roadshows + club listings p.98



A SUNNY DAY IN GLASGOW (FRI., 11/27)



METRIC (TUE., 12/1)



DIANNE REEVES (THU., 12/3)

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CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444
COOL RIVER CAFE, 4001 W. Parmer, 835-0010
COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002
COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla St., Granger,
 512/859-0700
DESSAU HALL, 13422 Dessau, 469-0000
DIZZY ROOSTER, 306 E. Sixth, 236-1667
DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336
THE DRISKILL HOTEL, 604 Brazos, 474-5911
EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD, 301 E. Fifth,
 472-1860
ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979
EMO'S, 603 Red River, 505-8541
EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie, 282-2586
FADÓ, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172
FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE,
 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646
FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
THE GHOST ROOM, 304 W. Fourth, 879-4472
GIDDY UPS, 12010 Manchaca Rd., 280-4732
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON,
 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813
GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT, 811 W. Live Oak,
 444-4747
GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels,
 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
GÜERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688
HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main St., Pflugerville,
 512/670-9617
HEADHUNTERS, 720 Red River, 236-0188
THE HIGHBALL, 1120 S. Lamar, 383-8309
HILL'S CAFE, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300
HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747
HOUSE WINE, 408 Josephine, 322-5210
HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL, 4521 West Gate Blvd.,
 899-2700
THE INDEPENDENT AT 501 STUDIOS, 501 N. I-35,
 485-3001
JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
LA FUENTES RESTAURANT & TEXAS BEER
GARDEN, 6507 Circle S Rd., 442-9925
LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290 E., 459-8729
LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146
LAMBERTS, 401 W. Second, 494-1500
LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122,
 327-9889
LATITUDE 30, 512 San Jacinto, 472-3335
LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700
MAGGIE MAE'S, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261
MEAN-EYED CAT, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326
MERCURY HALL, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226
MOHAWK, 912 Red River, 482-8404
MOMO'S, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth,
 478-7747
MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN, 4215 Duval St.,
 451-3994
NUEVO LEÓN, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097
NUNO'S ON SIXTH, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133
NUTTY BROWN CAFE, 12225 Hwy. 290 W.,
 301-4648
ONE 2 ONE BAR, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121
ONE WORLD THEATRE, 7701 Bee Caves Rd.,
 330-9500
THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 479-0474
PARMER LANE TAVERN, 2121 Parmer #1,
 339-0663
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE, 5001 E. Ben White,
 444-2020
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL,
 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318
RABBIT'S LOUNGE, 1816 E. Sixth, 473-3771
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Hwy. 183 N.,
 335-5115
RED 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100
RED EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084
RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120
RED SHED TAVERN, 8504 S. Congress, 280-4899
RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 9721 Arboretum Blvd.,
 343-2626
RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter,
 512/392-3132
ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder St., Round Rock,
 512/218-0813
ROADHOUSE RAGS, 1600 Fortview, 762-8797
ROMEO'S, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200,
 707-9637
SALVATION PIZZA, 624 W. 34th, 535-0076
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083
SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR, 5900 Slaughter,
 288-9994
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
THE SCOOT INN, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL,
 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 11416 RR 620 N.,
 401-2060
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
STARDUST CLUB, 11940 Manchaca Rd., 280-8590
STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341
T.C.'S LOUNGE, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd.,
 255-1300
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside,
 472-9304
THUNDERBIRD COFFEE, 2200 Manor Rd., 472-9900
TOM'S TABOOLEY, 2928 Guadalupe #102,
 479-7337
TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER,
 1401-A Rosewood, 524-1445
TRAVIS COUNTY EXPO CENTER, 7311 Decker,
 854-4900
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary St.,
 San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 902-5057
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET,
 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE,
 9600 S. I-35 Ste. D-100 (Southpark Meadows),
 292-7900
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE,
 9600 Escarpment, 301-1007
WATERLOO RECORDS, 600-A N. Lamar, 474-2500
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

Monday-Saturday
 3pm-7pm

Sunday
 Open to Close

1/2 PRICE HAPPY HOUR

1/2 price on ALL Appetizers, ALL drinks, and wines by the glass!

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Belmont

305 w. 6th street
 (corner of 6th and lavaca)
www.TheBelmontAustin.com

ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

Emo's

alternative lounging

505-8541
603 RED RIVER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

INSIDE: **POSSESSED BY PAUL JAMES DELANEY DAVIDSON**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

INSIDE: **SMOKE & FEATHERS**
TIA CARRERA
DARK KNIGHTS OF CAMELOT (MS)
THE BLIND PETS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

INSIDE: **HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC**
OLD CANES
(EX-APPLESEED CAST, THE DACTYLS, MINUS STORY - ON SADDLE CREEK RECORDS)
THE ALWAYS ALREADY • ABBY BIRDS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

INSIDE, DOORS @ 6PM: **ALESANA**
ASKING ALEXANDRIA • THE WORD ALIVE
MEMPHIS MAY FIRE • FIRE FROM THE GODS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

INSIDE: **LITTLE DRAGON**
CAR STEREO (WARS)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

INSIDE, 101X PRESENTS:
THE WHIGS • THE FEATURES
A GIANT DOG

OUTSIDE, DOORS @ 6PM:
BREATHE CAROLINA
CASH CASH • STEPHEN JERZAK
KILL PARADISE • FIGHT FAIR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

OUTSIDE, DOORS @ 7PM: **SKINNY PUPPY**
VVEREVOLF GREHV
INSIDE: **HIROSHIMABEND (DJ SET)**
(BEFORE AND AFTER VVEREVOLF GREHV'S SET)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

OUTSIDE: **BOWLING FOR SOUP**
RIDLIN KIDS • SMILE SMILE
CRUISERWEIGHT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

OUTSIDE: **SHAPES HAVE FANGS**
WILD HAREM • THE DULL DRUMS (TULSA, OK)
THE FLESHLIGHTS
INSIDE: **THE MOTHER HIPS**
BROTHERS AND SISTERS • DEADMAN

COMING SOON: 12/15 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA, ALL THAT REMAINS, STORY OF THE YEAR, HASTE THE DAY (OUTSIDE) • 12/19 ROONEY TALLEY HALL, CRASH KINGS (OUTSIDE)
• 12/22 HORSE THE BAND, ZLAM DUNK (INSIDE) • 12/29 THE RED JUMPSUIT APPARATUS W/ FIT FOR RIVALS, GO ACTION TEAM (INSIDE) • 1/1 - 1/10 EMO'S FREE WEEK FEATURING
AUSTIN'S BEST BANDS • 1/13 ADAM FRANKLIN & BOLTS OF MELODY, RINGO DEATHSTARR (INSIDE) • 1/15 THIS WILL DESTROY YOU W/ LYMBYC SYSTEM (OUT, ON SALE SAT 11/28)
• 1/16 GOODIE MOB REUNION TOUR W/ SPECIAL GUEST SCARFACE • 1/17 NEVER SHOUT NEVER, CARTER HULSEY, THE DENISON (INSIDE) • 1/21 NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS: KOR-
PIKLAANI, TYR, SWASHBUCKLE, WHITE WIZARD (OUTSIDE) • 1/23 THE HOPE CONSPIRACY, BITTER END, EIGHTYFIFTEEN (INSIDE) • 1/25 VHI CLASSIC PRESENTS: THE ANVIL EXPERIENCE
WITH ANVIL (OUTSIDE) • 1/31 101X PRESENTS: BADFISH, A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: SCOTTY DON'T (OUTSIDE) • 2/6 THAT 1 GUY (INSIDE, ON SALE SAT 11/28)
• 2/11 MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK W/ SET YOUR GOALS, THIS PROVIDENCE AND THE SWELLERS (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 2/13 RID2 W/ HAPPY CHICHESTER (OUT, ON SALE 11/28)
• 2/24 EVAN DANDO (INSIDE, ONSALE NOW) • SAT 4/17 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE W/ OVER-GAIN OPTIMAL DEATH (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW)

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT emosoastin.com, Waterloo Records, End of an Ear Records, Sound on Sound Records & Trailer Space

FIND UPCOMING SHOWS & BUY ADVANCE TICKETS @ EMOSAUSTIN.COM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

OUTSIDE: **MOTHFIGHT!**
MUTATING MELTDOWN
HORSE + DONKEY • FOLLOW THAT BIRD!
INSIDE: **THE MOTHER HIPS**
ZOOKEEPER • PINK NASTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

INSIDE, DOORS @ 9PM: **IRON LUNG**
VOETSEK • HUMMINGBIRD OF DEATH
PLF • MINDLESS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

101X NO CONTROL PRESENTS INSIDE:
BARONESS
IRON AGE • DARK CASTLE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

OUTSIDE, DOORS @ 6PM:
NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS:
THE FACELESS • DYING FETUS
BENEATH THE MASSACRE
SUFFOKATE • ENFOLD DARKNESS
INSIDE, DOORS @ 6PM:
SCATTERED REMAINS
DISFIGURED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

OUTSIDE, 101X PRESENTS
JAY REATARD
HARLEM • SHANGHAI RIVER
INSIDE, DOORS @ 6PM:
THROWDOWN • BURY YOUR DEAD
FOR TODAY • ABACABB
THE WORLD WE KNEW
SET AFLAME • EISENHEIM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

OUTSIDE: **PURE LUCK • CORRINE ROSE**
JORDAN PRICE & THE NATIONALS
INSIDE:
CHRISTMAS SWEATER DANCE PARTY
CAR STEREO (WARS) • NEILIYO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

INSIDE: **THE SHAKY HANDS**
THE MERCERS • LOXSLY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

INSIDE LATE:
PRAYER FOR ANIMALS
HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC
OBSOLETE MACHINES
INSIDE EARLY DOORS @ 5PM:
THIEVES
WITH THE PUNCHES • CARRIDALE

GLITTER ART BY **SUE ZOLA**
• THUR • FR 1 • SAT • SUN // 10PM
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
WILL BE ROCKIN' THE GALLERY
WITH **JOHNNY MOELLER**
AND **FROSTY**
• MONDAY
ETHAN AZARIAN 9:30PM
CRYBEAR 11:00PM
• TUESDAY // 10PM
EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE
• WEDNESDAY
10PM: **TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ**
EVERY WED. 8-10PM: **JON BLONDELL**

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY
THUR NOVEMBER 26
HAPPY THANKSGIVING
TO ALL! DOORS OPEN AT 9PM
WAYNE HANCOCK
12AM
10PM
SHOTGUN PARTY
FRI NOV 27 & SAT NOV 28
ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO
TWO BIG NIGHTS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
ALEJANDRO AT 12AM
EACH NIGHT
FRIDAY NIGHT WITH
H. H. THE LEGENDARY
BLUES SPECIALISTS
12AM
10PM
THE GREYHOUNDS
SATURDAY NIGHT WITH
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT
10PM
10PM
HEYBALE
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29
WITH **REDD VOLKAERT**
AND **EARL POOLE BALL**

IT'S ALL AT...
CONTINENTAL CLUB
MONDAY NOVEMBER 30
H. H. Olivier Giraud's Continental Graffiti
DALE WATSON
AND HIS LONESTARS 10PM
TUESDAY DECEMBER 1
H. H. 6:30
TONI PRICE
12AM
10PM
DAVID GARZA
SESSIONS ON S. CONGRESS
ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO
WED DECEMBER 2
H. H. STONE
RIVER BOYS
JAMES MCMURTRY
10PM
JON DEE GRAHAM
THURSDAY DECEMBER 3
HAPPY HOUR
PLANET CASPER
12:30AM
11:15PM
GRADY CHILI COLD BLOOD
FRIDAY DECEMBER 4
12AM
FRANK MUSTARD PROJECT
CHARANGA CAKEWALK
10PM
Patricia Vonne
SATURDAY DECEMBER 5
10PM
REDD VOLKAERT
12AM
THE DERAILERS
10PM
ROGER WALLACE

COMING SOON
12/11 **WHITE GHOST SHIVERS**
12/12 **ALAN HOLDSWORTH**
BILL CARTER & DENNY FREEMAN
12/19 **PAUL RAY & THE COBRAS**

1315 S. CONGRESS • OPEN: TUES.- FRI. 4PM • SAT. 3PM • SUN. 9PM • 441-2444



208 W. 4th St. Warehouse District 512-495-9669

HEADLINERS THIS WEEK

Shows start at 9 pm. Cover charge at the door for all headliner shows.

THU 11/26	Closed - Thanksgiving!
FRI 11/27	RadioStar
SAT 11/28	Sophisticates
SUN 11/29	Neil Nassett and Hi Lo
MON 11/30	Soulution
TUE 12/1	Ritmo 3
WED 12/2	The Spazmatics

HAPPY HOUR M-F 6-8PM

THU 11/26	Closed - Thanksgiving!
FRI 11/27	TBD
MON 11/30	Kalu James
TUE 12/1	Tavana
WED 12/2	Josh and Jason

PRIVATE EVENTS

Book a party at our veranda deck or plan a happy hour or private event in any of our rooms. Contact Amy Dial at amy@208events.com.

cedarstretaustin.com

club listings

THU 26

ANTONE'S Uncle Lucius, the Scabs (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton (9:00)

BUENOS AIRES CAFE Una Noche Porteña Tango w/ Daniel Montserrat

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Continental Graffiti (10:00); In the Club: Shotgun Party, Wayne Hancock (10:00)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: J.W.W. & the Prospectors (6:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jon Blondell Quartet (9:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

LA PALAPA Triple Shot (7:00)

LA ZONA ROSA Feast & Variety Show w/ Luna Tart (7:30)

MOMO'S Blues Mafia, T Bird & the Breaks (9:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Spit & Tears (9:00)

RED FEZ DJ Cashless (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Plastic Fantastic Lover, Austin Volunteer Orchestra (9:00)

SAXON PUB George Macias (6:00), Jonny Burke, the Gunhands, George Devore (8:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Molly Hayes (6:00)

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler

VICTORY GRILL Tim Curry Trio (6:00), Souled Out (8:00)

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday morning, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

roadshows

november

FRI 27

Dark Knights of Camelot, Emo's

The Skatalites, Flamingo Cantina

A Sunny Day in Glasgow, the Ghost Room

J. Tillman, Pearly Gate Music, Mohawk

Ouachita, Momo's

Alcoholics Unanimous, Red 7

Under the Gun, Red Eyed Fly

Rayon Beach, Trailer Space Records & Events Center

J. Tillman, Waterloo Records

SAT 28

Boxcar Satan, Beerland

The Skatalites, Flamingo Cantina

St. Cloud, Colin Herring, the Ghost Room

Muhammadali, Hole in the Wall

Odis, Lucky Lounge

Esther LaVonne & the Rottens, Sex Dragon,

Cursive, Capgun Coup, Mohawk

Marduk, Nachtmystium,

Averse Sefira, Mantic Ritual, Merrimack, Nodens,

Ancient Malus, Red 7

Pascal's Wager, Red Eyed Fly

The Lovers, Ruta Maya

Above & Beyond,

Christopher Lawrence,

Filo & Peri, the Glitch Mob,

Planet of the Drums,

Q-Bert, Designer Drugs,

Keith MacKenzie, Boom

Jinx, Undecided, Wildchild,

Travis County Expo Center

SUN 29

Rich Hopkins & the Luminarios,

Club de Ville

Alesana, Asking Alexandria,

the Word Alive, Memphis May Fire,

Emo's

Café Tacuba, La Zona Rosa

Voodoo Glow Skulls, the Toasters,

Red 7

The Romeros, Red Eyed Fly

MON 30

Jackson Browne, Bass

Concert Hall

Shawn Mullins, Cactus Cafe

Little Dragon, Emo's

Unwed Sailor, Native Lights,

Mohawk

Matt Graves, Molock,

Red Eyed Fly

december

TUE 1

Del tha Funky Homosapien,

Aces Lounge

Cage the Elephant, Antone's

Ah Holly Family, Ohioan, Club

1808

Breathe Carolina, Cash Cash, Stephen Jerzak, Kill Paradise, Fight Fair, the Whigs, the Features, Emo's

Metric, La Zona Rosa

Ahmed Arbab, Momo's

Radio Valley, Red Eyed Fly

Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub

WED 2

Andrew Anderson, Beerland

Stone River Boys, Continental Club

Skinny Puppy, Vverevvolf Grehv,

Emo's

Fanfarlo, Freelance Whales,

the Independent at 501 Studios

Wicked Celtics, Mohawk

Tongue Tied Lightning,

Momo's

Mr. Gnome, Red 7

THU 3

Dead Space, Beerland

Bowling for Soup, Smile Smile,

Emo's

Buster Jiggs, Gruene Hall

Meggan Carney, Momo's

Dianne Reeves, One World Theatre

Tommy Castro, Saxon Pub

Moistboyz, Vinoh Mudeh,

White Knuckle Drivers,

the Scoot Inn

Benjy Davis Project, Andrew Hoover,

Stubb's

Spider Bags, Trailer Space Records & Events Center

for your benefit

SUN 29

Habitat for Humanity Benefit w/ Phillippe Bertaud, **Jovita's**

Willie Sampson Headstone Benefit w/ Texas Eastside Kings, Johnny & Jason Moeller, Mike Keller, Eve Monsees, Moving Blues, **Rabbit's Lounge**

Phillip Phest w/ Pure Texas Band, Stop the Truck, Earl Poole Ball, Albert & Gage, Slaid Cleaves, the Monstas, **the Scoot Inn**

TUE 01

Inside Books Benefit w/ Bright Light Social Hour, **Mercury Hall**

WED 02

NORML Benefit w/ Trippin' Out West, Sun Salutation, **Flamingo Cantina**

THU 03

Katzen Benefit Bash w/ White Knuckle Drivers, Vinoh Mudeh, Black Eyed Vermillion, Moistboyz, **the Scoot Inn**



SMOKING PERMITTED ON OUR OUTDOOR PATIO
618 WEST 6TH ST. ABOVE KATZ'S 6TH & RIO GRANDE 479-8848

WWW.MOMOSCLUB.COM

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25

RACHEL LOY 5:01
SHAWN PANDER 9:15
NIEL NASSET 12:15
BEN MALLOTT 8
NOELLE HAMPTON 7

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26 / \$10



T-BIRD
& THE BREAKS 12
BLUES MAFIA 10
BRETT RANDELL 8:30

FRONTGATE TICKETS WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27 / \$15



THE BAND 10
OF HEATHENS

BRIAN KEANE 8
THE BECKHAM BROTHERS 12:15

FRONTGATE TICKETS WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28 / \$10

PATRICE PIKE 11:30

SUZANNA CHOFFEL 10

KACY CROWLEY 8

FRONTGATE TICKETS WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29 / \$7

WARREN HOOD
& THE HOODLUMS 9:30
SHAWN NELSON & THE RAMBLERS 8
JASON BLUM 12:15

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30 / \$5

JAVI GARCIA 12:30
& THE COLD COLD GROUND
EARLE BROWN BAND 11
WISEBIRD 9:30
THE BECKHAM BROTHERS 8
HAVILAH 7
NO COVER HAPPY HR AWKWARD ROCKETS 5:15

TUESDAY DECEMBER 1 / \$7

WORLD MUSIC NIGHT SPONSORED BY KUT 50 & BEMBA ENTERTAINMENT
AUTHUR YORIA 8
FREDERICO & THE HASASHINS 10
AHMED ARBAB 12
NO SHOW PONIES 7
NO COVER HAPPY HR LAURA LEE BISHOP 5:15

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2 / \$5

SUICIDE PISTOLS 12:30
MOBLEY 11
DAVID JIMENEZ 9:30
GOD & THE DEVIL 8
TONGUE TIED LIGHTNING 7

UPCOMING SHOWS

FRONTGATE TICKETS WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

BIG SAM'S FUNKY NATION DEC 5

STUBB'S

801 RED RIVER
480-8341

FRI NOV 27 — DOORS 9PM
WOXY SERIES KICKOFF:



NEON INDIAN
WITH TUNNELS AND TIGERCITY

SAT NOV 28 — DOORS 9PM

LIVE OAK DECLINE

WITH NIEL NASSET AND MAGNOLIA SONS

SUN NOV 29

GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH THE SHIELDS OF FAITH

THU DEC 3 — DOORS 9PM

BENJY DAVIS PROJECT

WITH ANDREW HOOVER

FRI DEC 4 — DOORS 9PM

FULL SERVICE

WITH INVINCIBLE CZARS AND UNDERTONE

SUN DEC 6 — DOORS 8PM

DAVY KNOWLES

AND BACK DOOR SLAM

TUE DEC 8 — DOORS 9PM

DREW HOLCOMB

WITH DUSTIN WELCH

WED DEC 9 — DOORS 9PM

BOBBY LONG

THU DEC 10 — DOORS 9PM

BOBBY DUNCAN

WITH CASEY BERRY

THU DEC 17 — DOORS 9PM

AUSTIN 360 CONCERT SERIES
THE GARY

WITH GREAT NOSTALGIC AND ST-37

THU DEC 31 — DOORS 9PM
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



WITH BLACK JOE LEWIS AND THE HONEYBEARS AND HARD PROOF AFROBEAT
TIX INCLUDE BBQ BUFFET & CHAMPAGNE TOAST

Tickets Available at Stubb's & stubbs.frontgatetickets.com

Phillip Phest!

Benefit for Austin Musican Phillip Fajardo

Sunday
Nov 29
3-8 pm

\$10
at the
Door



The Scoot Inn 1308 E 4th St
Musical Guests Include:
The Monstas~Slaid Cleaves
Albert & Gage~Stop the Truck~
The Pure Texas Band~Earl Pool Ball~
Tony Airoidi~Phil Brown's Jimi Project
The Matteoli Family Band~BBC~
Marvin Dykhuis & Danny Britt
and many more. For more info go to
Phillip Phest on Facebook.

COUPLAND

Wednesday, November 25th

JASON BOLAND
and THE STRAGGLERS
RYAN BEAVER opening

Friday, November 27th

BRODIE LANE BAND

Saturday, November 28th

ROGER CREAGER
MIDNIGHT RIVER CHOIR opening

Friday, December 4th

BILLY BROWN
and TRIPLE SHOT

Saturday, December 5th

AARON WATSON
special guest MAX STALLING

Friday, December 11th

SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS

Saturday, December 12th

JOHN CONLEE
CASH COOPER opening

WWW.COUPLANDDANCEHALL.COM
512-856-2226

BEERLAND

711 1/2 RED RIVER 479-ROCK

th 26 closed

**FR 27 Woven Bones,
Shapes Have Fangs, Dated**

**SA 28 Boxcar Satan,
Churchwood, Chris Gates**

SU 29 There will be blood

MO 30 ROCK & ROLL KARAOKE @ 9PM

**TU 1 Monkey Town, Bottle Service,
Pataphysics, The Mysterious H**

WE 2 Andrew Anderson

**TH 3 French Inhales, Simple
Circuit, and more**

beerlandtexas.com also on myspace & twitter

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE

Mon-Fri 5pm ★ Sat-Sun 4pm
HH til 9pm & All night Thr
606 E 7th St. ★ 480.5988

Iron Gate

COCKTAIL LOUNGE NOW OPEN
1111 E. 6TH ST.
4pm-2am Daily
HH til 9pm

THE 04 LOUNGE

Visit us Down South
EVERYDAY NOON-2AM, HH TIL 8PM
3808 S. CONGRESS AVE

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

FRI 27

THE AMSTERDAM
Wilson (11:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Grazmatics
(7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Erin
Jaimes (10:30)

BEERLAND Dated, Shapes Have
Fangs, Woven Bones

BOTTICELLI'S Douglas Jay Boyd,
Graham Wilkinson (5:30)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE Dance
Lessons, Heybale! (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Greatest
American Heroes (9:00)

CERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE
Demon Hiatus (10:00); In the
Club: The Blues Specialists
(6:30); Greyhounds, Alejandro
Escovedo (10:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Mike Flanigin (10:00); In the
Club: The Blues Specialists
(6:30); Greyhounds, Alejandro
Escovedo (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE The
Sophisticates

COTTON CLUB Texas Fever

DESSAU HALL Earl Hinton & the
Jokers (9:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER Diamond
Simon & the Roughcuts
(8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the
Station Masters

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD
Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jeff Lofton
Quintet (9:30)

EMO'S The Blind Pets, Dark
Knights of Camelot, Tia
Carrera, Smoke & Feathers

FLAMINGO CANTINA Proper
Villain Soundsystem, the
Bandulus, the Skatalites
(9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Jarrod Dickenson, Idgy
Vaughn, Lincoln Durham
(10:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Fach Idiot,
MothFight!, A Sunny Day in
Glasgow (10:00)

GRUENE HALL Brian Keane
(1:00), Aaron Watson (8:00)

HANOVER'S Kevin Havron

HEADHUNTERS Dog Company,
Blue Flames

HILL'S CAFE Ronnie Caywood

HOLE IN THE WALL The Onlys,
Masonic (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Feeding 5000,
DJ Diamond Tip (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann
Atherton (7:00)

MOHAWK Outside: Pearly Gate
Music, J. Tillman (9:00);
Inside: Real Estate, Brackett
& Co. (10:00)

MOMO'S The Band of Heathens,
Ouachita (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN
Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Rusty Trapps
& the Evil Man Babies (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Kalu James,
Ray Primm, Will Evans Project
(8:00)

THE PARISH Peligrosa

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL
Catch a Dream, Toni Price

RED 7 Alcoholics Unanimous

RED EYED FLY Under the Gun,
No Champions, Say Hello to
the Angels, Born to Lose

RED FEZ DJ Jayson Lee (10:00)

ROADHOUSE RAGS Dickie Lee
Erwin, Gary Newcomb, Tiny
Adventurers (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Carson Brock, the
Daze, Southern Heat (10:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR
Lucky Strikes

SAXON PUB Earl Poole Ball &
the Cosmic Americans (6:00),
Seth Walker, Drew Smith
(9:00)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Video
Stars (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Buzz Fuel

STARDUST CLUB Sam Bentley

STUBB'S The Tunnels, Neon
Indian (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Deja Who

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ
Bob Schneider's Bluegrass
Massacre (9:00)

**TRAILER SPACE RECORDS
& EVENTS CENTER** Rayon
Beach, Dated, the Stuffies,
Air Traffic Controllers (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Mark Jungers,
Lotus Effect, Falcon Buddies,
the Organics

VICTORY GRILL Hot Wax,
DJ Kris Lott (8:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH
STREET** Miss Lauren Marie
(7:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE
GROVE** Matt Creaton (10:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE
SLAUGHTER LANE** Wynn
Taylor (7:00)

WATERLOO RECORDS J. Tillman
(5:00)

SAT 28

THE AMSTERDAM The
Adamants, Victoria &
Zeta Five (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Russell Bros.
(7:30)

**AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET
DOWNTOWN** Megan Blue &
the Sugar Daddies (10:00am)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB
Preacher Keen (10:30)

BEAUTY BAR Love Hate Affair

BEERLAND Big Chris Gates
& Gatesville, Churchwood,
Boxcar Satan

BOTTICELLI'S The Blue Hit (8:00)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dance
Lessons, Dale Watson (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Rich & the
Obits (7:00)

**CHEATHAM STREET
WAREHOUSE** Forest Wayne
Allen (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Mike Flanigin's B-3 Groove
(10:00); In the Club: Redd
Volkaert (3:00); Grady,
Alejandro Escovedo (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Lipservice

COTTON CLUB The Debonaires

DESSAU HALL People's Choice
(9:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER Diamond Simon
& the Roughcuts (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Hot Cakes

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby
Bar: Kevin Carroll, Stephen
Doster & Bill Carter (6:00)

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THURSDAY-NOVEMBER 26
THANKSGIVING DAY
LOUNGE OPENS AT 8PM

FRIDAY-NOVEMBER 27
BORN TO LOSE
NO CHAMPIONS
UNDER THE GUN

SATURDAY-NOVEMBER 28
THE GRAPES
NAKED EMPIRE
TRIVERSE
AUTOMATIC CYCLE
CASUAL'S WARDEN

SUNDAY-NOVEMBER 29
CONRAD'S RUBBER BAND
THE ROMEROS
467
DOVES & SIRENS

MONDAY-NOVEMBER 30
MADONN TIGER &
THE TEXAS CLOUT
MATT GRAVES
MADONN TIGER

TUESDAY-DECEMBER 1
DANIELS AND ANIMALS
RADIO VALLEY
STUMBLER DRUNK
JUSTIN BLACK &
BIG HEART

WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 2
CHOWDERFOOT
ILYSIUM
PRIMAL RAPE
EYES LIKE ARSON
MATTHEW'S IPOD NIGHT

THURSDAY-DECEMBER 3
THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES
ORIGINAL GLITCH
CHASCA
SOMETHING CALLED NOTHING
POST SOCIETY

FRIDAY-DECEMBER 4
DARK SUMMER DREAM
MATCHES FOR MEMORIES
LUVREAM

SATURDAY-DECEMBER 5
BRINK OF DISASTER
SCRAPS OF LIFE
PLAQUE OF 98
PORIFERA
DIMINISHER

UPCOMING SHOWS
12/11 - INSITE NIGHT W/ TRASHY & THE MID, SNARKSAIN PRISON, BUTCHERWHITE
12/12 - EYES BURN ELECTRIC, VEHICLE REASON, DEEP ELLA
12/16 - VEGAS BOMB, STEGOSAURUS LIPS, 7 DAY TRIP @ OUR FUN
12/18 - NEW DISASTER, WHITE RHINO, AMERICAN HEIST
12/31 - TENTH ANNUAL NEW YEARS EVE WITH THE STUMMIES,
BORN TO LOSE, NAKED EMPIRE & MORE

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Thursday • Nov 26 **CLOSED**
CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING
Happy Turkey Day from everyone at Elysium!

Friday • Nov 27 **SPECIAL EVENT!**
Indie Electro Britpop **P.D.A.** New Wave & Postpunk

Saturday • Nov 28 **HAVEN**
goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE
HAVEN WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Nov 29 **REGRESSION**
RETRO 80's RETRO 80's RETRO 80's
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & BOBA FETT

Tuesday • Dec 1 **ROCK BAND**
The ROCK BAND Experience
our stage, our lights, our console, your ROCK BAND
WITH DJ MINIMUS

Wednesday • Dec 2 **MID-WAVE**
UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thu. Dec 3 • Lucas Lanthier (NY, NY)
(of The Deadfly Ensemble & Cinema Strange)
HOLLOW & DJs None & Malediction

Fri. Dec 4 • KINGS N THINGS -
[ALL]DAY SHOW

Thu. Dec 10 • DEAD OF NIGHT -
Holiday Bizarre - Craft Exhibition &
Fashion Gala - Live!
Psychic Violence 12 AM,
Coma in Algiers 9:30 PM

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**\$2
HAPPY
HOUR**
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Tailboys,
Frozen Jack

WEEK'S MUSIC LINE-UP

Fri@6 Stingrays
Sat@6 Swingsters
Sun@5 Megan Blue &
Her Sugar Daddies

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BROKEN GROVE
THE MOST FANCY... BUT WE'RE BORN SHURE COUNTRY!
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PHOTO BY M. DAPRA

THU, NOV 26 OPEN @ 5PM **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9PM **JESSE DAYTON**

FRI, NOV 27 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9PM **HEYBALE**

SAT, NOV 28 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9PM **DALE WATSON**

TUE, DEC 1 **WELDON HENSON** NO COVER

WED, DEC 2 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON**
8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9PM **DALE WATSON**

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- Th 26 Molly Hayes 6pm Free Juke Box & Pool 8pm
 Fr 27 Mark Jungers 6pm
 The Organics, Falcon Buddies,
 Lotus Effect 10pm
 Sa 28 Beans & Rice, Shotgun Hustler,
 Dying For More 10pm
 Su 29 Open Mic w/ Grant, Holly & Nate 8pm
 Mo 30 Bruce Curtis Band 6pm
 Smarty Pants - Trivia Contest 8pm
 Tu 1 Matt Begley 6pm
 Orquesta Ritmo - FREE SHOW!!! 10pm
 We 2 Scott Wood 6pm
 Bayou City Outlaw Band - CD release 10pm

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- TH NOV 26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING
 FR NOV 27 HH 6P Jarrrod Dickenson
 (3S) 8P Iddy Vaughn
 10P LINCOLN DURHAM
 SA NOV 28 6P The 90/90
 (3S) 8P PASTOR CORY And
 The Good Ole Band
 SU NOV 29 6P Sweet Bunch of Daisies
 8P Datri Bean
 MO NOV 30 8P Raina Rose
 w/ Adam Moss



COFFEESPACE CAFE

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SUNDAY, NOV. 29



TUESDAY, DEC. 1



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9



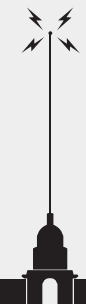
TUESDAY, DEC. 15

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WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY
 6:30 - 9 PM
 SUNDAY
 12:30 - 3 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27
WILL TAYLOR & STRINGS ATTACHED
 beatles' rubber soul

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA
 celtic, appalachian

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
EL TULE
 latin

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
REDD VOLKAERT
 alt-country

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
TWO HIGH STRING BAND
 bluegrass, americana

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27
CHRISTINE ALBERT
 texa-france

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
PHIL BROWN
 soul & Jimi Hendrix

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
FLOYD DOMINO
 hot jazz

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
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 every Wednesday \$2 Shiners,
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BETTY SOO
 singer-songwriter

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- DEC 6 - Manteca Beat
- DEC 11 - Cienfuegos
- DEC 12 - White Ghost Shivers
- DEC 13 - Jewish Community Assoc. of Austin's CHANUKAH IN THE HOOD 2-4 pm
- DEC 18 - Seu Jacinto

at westgate:

- DEC 4 - Wilson
- DEC 5 - Leeann Atherton
- DEC 6 - Combo Mahalo
- DEC 9 - Texas Eastside Kings
- DEC 10 - Son Y No Son
- DEC 11 - Lost Pines

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1-NITE STAND WEDNESDAYS
 HOSTED BY LANCE KOTARA
< ADAM McINNIS & STEPHANIE DAULONG

THU 11/26 9PM
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
 WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR FAMILY, WERE OPEN AT 9PM...

FRI 11/27 9PM
FEEDING 5000
 LATER: DJ DIAMOND TIP SPINS TIL 2AM

SAT 11/28 9PM
ODIS
 LATER: DJ PROTEGE SPINS TIL 2AM

SUN 11/29 10PM
GENO GOTTSCHALL
YOUR LUCKY DAY!
 DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT!

TUE 12/1 9PM
DJ RICH
 OPENS FOR THE INCOMPARABLE
BOOMBOX ATX

WED 12/2 10PM
1-NITE STAND WEDNESDAYS
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< ADAM McINNIS & STEPHANIE DAULONG

THU 12/3 10PM
GRANT EWING BAND

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1/2 price appetizers

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Every Sunday 4pm-Close

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\$1 Select Beers \$2 Wells
Food Specials All Night!
4pm-Close

LIVE MUSIC

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25 • NO COVER
THE CORNELL HURD BAND 8-10PM

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26 & FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27
CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28 • \$3 COVER
GIRL GUITAR 6-7PM
CARI HUTSON 8-9:30PM
NAKIA & HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS 10-12PM

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29
DOORS AT 5PM
Habitat for Humanity
Benefit Concert!
TICKETS ~ \$25
INFO: (512) 965-7073
PHILIPPE BERTAUD

TUESDAY DECEMBER 1 • NO COVER
SIN NIGHT!

JWW & THE PROSPECTORS 7-9PM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2 • NO COVER
GEEKS WHO DRINK! 8-10PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
DECEMBER 4 & 5

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the PARISH™

Nov. 27
PELIGROSA WITH ORION,
MANOLO BLACK, HOBO D, PAGAME,
PIXELS BY G. JACKSON

Nov. 28
DREAMTIME PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
EOTO

DEC. 3
BTG ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS
THE SHOWCASE

DEC. 5
RING THE ALARM WITH DJ BABY G,
JAH MIGHTY AND JR. VIBES

DEC. 7
QUIET COMPANY
WITH FRANK AND DEROL
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DEC. 11
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FOUNDATION PRESENTS
THE RURAL ALBERTA ADVANTAGE
WITH ADAM ARCOURAGI
& THE EASTERN SEA
BENEFITING
THE SUSTAINABLE
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DEC. 12 & DEC. 13
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CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD
Bruce James (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Ray Benson
(9:30)

EMO'S Abby Birds, the Always
Already, Old Canes, Haunting
Oboe Music

FADÓ The Blaggards (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Proper
Villain Soundsystem, the
Bandulus, the Skatalites
(9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE The
90/90, Spot, Pastor Cory
Cross & the Good Ole Band
(6:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Colin
Herring, St. Cloud (10:00)

GIDDY UPS Jason Arnold & the
Stepsiders (9:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON** Two Hoots & a
Holler (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Erik Hokkanen,
Gary Claxton (1:00); One
Hundred Springs, Jason
Boland & the Stragglers
(9:00)

HANOVER'S The Standouts

THE HIGHBALL Datapop 2.0
w/ Prince S & Sievert, IAYD,
Starpulse (10:00)

HILL'S CAFE John Burkland

HOLE IN THE WALL
Muhammadali, Corrina
Corrina, Woozyhelmet (10:00)

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Cari
Hutson, Nakia & His Southern
Cousins (6:30)

**LA FUENTES RESTAURANT &
TEXAS BEER GARDEN** Trio
del Rio

LATITUDE 30 Jabarvy (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Odis, DJ
Protege (9:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey &
the Texcellorators (6:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Chaparral w/
Jeff Hughes (8:00)

MOHAWK Outside: Boohier &
the Turkeys, Capgun Coup,
Cursive; Inside: Sex Dragons,
Esther LaVonne & the
Rottens, Mocktigers (9:00)

MOMO'S Suzanna Choffel,
Patrice Pike (10:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN
Thomas "Doc" Grauzer
(11:30am)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Kindly Brothers
Trio (8:00)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR &
GRILL** Mark Allan Atwood

RED 7 Ancient Malus, Nodens,
Merrimack, Mantic Ritual,
Averse Sefira, Nachtmystium,
Marduk

RED EYED FLY Pascal's Wager,
Automatic Cycle, Triverse,
Naked Empire, the Grapes

RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby
Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Michael Wren

ROADHOUSE RAGS Iron City
Soul Shakers, the Redneck
Boys (8:00)

ROMEO'S David Ducharme-
Jones (7:30)

RUTA MAYA Friends of
Traditional Music (3:00);
Freddie Steady V, Jenny Wolfe,
McLemore Avenue (7:00);
Irie Jane, the Love Band, the
Lovers (10:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR
Continental Graffiti

SAXON PUB Guy Forsyth, Micky
& the Motorcars (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN Doug Kent, the
Lonesome Heroes, American
Graveyard, Flatcar Rattlers
(8:00)

SPEAKEASY Radiostar

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ
Shinyribs, Uncle Lucius (9:00)

**TRAILER SPACE RECORDS &
EVENTS CENTER** Shitty Beach
Boys, In Duder0 (7:00)

TRAVIS COUNTY EXPO CENTER
Mega Buzz w/ Wildchild,
Undecided, Boom Jinx, Keith
MacKenzie, Designer Drugs,
Q-Bert, Planet of the Drums,
the Glitch Mob, Filo & Peri,
Christopher Lawrence, Above
& Beyond

TRIPLE CROWN Dying for More,
Shotgun Hustler, Beans & Rice

VICTORY GRILL Blues Posse
(2:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH
STREET** Matt Creaton (7:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE
GROVE** Bobby Kennedy (10:00)

SUN 29

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Paul
Schlessinger (6:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish
Tunes Session (9:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Nano Whitman
(7:30)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)

CLUB DE VILLE Rich Hopkins &
the Luminarios (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Mike Flanigin (10:00); In the
Club: Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly
Playboyz (7:00)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby
Bar: Patricia G. (7:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD
Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Young Guns
(9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro
Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Fire From the Gods,
Memphis May Fire, the Word
Alive, Asking Alexandria,
Alesana

Dec 2nd
Soundcheck Magazine Presents:
Fanfario
with Freelance Whales
tix avail at c3presents.frontgatetickets.com

11/30 MO STACHE BASH
12/4 Austin Poetry Slam presents REWIND: BEST OF SLAM 09
12/5 Erin Ivey 12/18 Fighting Brothers McCarthy

Upcoming Events at
INDEPENDENT
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 • 7PM
THANKSGIVING DAY!
CLOSED

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 • 10PM • \$5
ALAN HAYNES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28 • 10PM • \$5
**MATT SMITH'S
WORLD**

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30 • 6:30PM
**AUSTIN
CAJUN ACES**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER 8PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 • 6PM
COWBOY JOHNSON

SISTER HAZEL

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With Special Guest:
Tyrone Wells



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Tuesday

DJ MANNY
CWISE UP

Wednesday

**GET RIGHT
KIDS**

Thursday

**HAPPY
CHANKSGIVING**

Friday

DJ JAYSON LEE

Saturday

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MURRAY BAND
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CHAOS REIGNS:

**THE HIGHBALL HEAVY METAL
KARAOKE ASSAULT**

Hosted by Zack "The Annihilator" Carlson
Friday, Nov 27, 11pm
NO COVER!

**DATAPOP presents the
DATABEEZ TOUR**

the music of the Nintendo Gameboy
Saturday, Nov 28, 10pm

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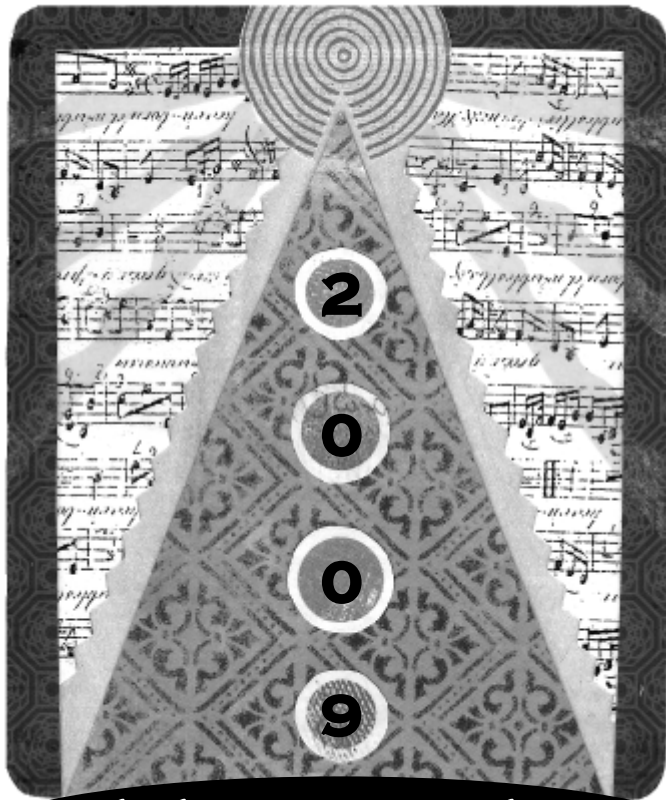
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009

6:00 – 7:00 P.M.

SING-ALONG & TREE LIGHTING

7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

HOLIDAY STROLL DOWN CONGRESS AVE.

Gather 'round the steps of the Texas Capitol and fill the air with song as we light the Christmas tree to kick off the holidays.

**BE SURE TO BRING:
peanut butter or other non-perishable food items
for the Caritas barrels at the base of the tree.**

*Enjoy live music, street performances and refreshments as you stroll down Congress Ave. Shops will be open for business.
This event is free and open to the public.*

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Ballet Austin's Nutcracker, Ginny's Printing, P. Terry's Burger Stand, Texas Gas Service Conservation Program, Texas Tech University, Whole Earth Provision Company

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT kut.org OR CALL 512-471-1631

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Sweet Bunch of Daisies, Datri Bean, the Inheritance (6:00)

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Clay McClinton (noon), Tom Gilliam CD Release (4:00)

HILL'S CAFE Gospel Brunch w/ the Seekers

HOLE IN THE WALL Smiling at the Ceiling

HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL Marshall Ford Swing Band (7:00)

JOVITA'S Habitat for Humanity Benefit w/ Phillipe Bertaud (6:00)

LA ZONA ROSA Café Tacuba (7:00)

LAMBERTS Black, Red & Black (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Geno Gottschall (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Duquines (8:00)

MOMO'S Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Jason Blum (8:00)

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Rusty Trapps & the Evil Man Babies (8:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Luis Banuelos, Rescue Signals (8:00)

RABBIT'S LOUNGE Willie Sampson Headstone Benefit w/ Texas Eastside Kings, Johnny & Jason Moeller, Mike Keller, Eve Monsees, Moving Blues (5:00)

RED 7 Al Shire & the Henchmen, Channel One, the Toasters, Voodoo Glow Skulls

RED EYED FLY Doves & Sirens, 461, the Romeros, Conrad's Rubber Band

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt, DJ Cauze-One (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

RUTA MAYA The Strollers (10:30am), Crucial Prophet (9:00)

SAXON PUB Milkdrive, the Resentments (7:30)

THE SCOOT INN Phillip Phest w/ Pure Texas Band, Stop the Truck, Earl Poole Ball, Albert & Gage, Slaid Cleaves, the Monstas (3:00)

STUBB'S The Shields of Faith (noon)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

Z'TEJAS Trés (6:00)

MON 30

ANTONE'S JJ Usher, Soul Track Mind (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Jonathan Horne, Bubbegum Shitface, (9:00)

BAR 141 Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

BASS CONCERT HALL Jackson Browne (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard Showcase

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

CACTUS CAFE Open Stage w/ Shawn Mullins, Ruthie Foster, Jimmy Lafave, Bruce Robison (7:30)

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ethan Azarian, Crybear (9:30); In the Club: Continental Graffiti (6:30); Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Austin Jazz Band, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)

EMO'S Car Stereo (Wars), Little Dragon

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Raina Rose & Adam Moss (8:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Erin Ivey, the Finest Kind (6:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HOUSE WINE Song Swap/Open Mic (7:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LATITUDE 30 Chris Tondre (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE The Makalani Movement (10:00)

MOHAWK Native Lights, Unwed Sailor (10:00)

MOMO'S Havilah, Beckham Bros., Wisebird, Earle Brown, Javi Garcia & the Cold Cold Ground (7:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Jo Hell & the Red Roosters

RED EYED FLY Gabriel & the Beautiful Mind, Molock, Matt Graves, Moonticca & the Texas Clock

RED FEZ DJ Cause-One & DJ Taco (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, the Jitterbug Vipers (8:00)

SALVATION PIZZA Fractals (8:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (8:35)

SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider, Jeff Plankenhorn (7:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Wood

SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell (9:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Bruce Curtis (6:00)

TUE 01

ACES LOUNGE Del tha Funky Homosapien

ANTONE'S Cage the Elephant (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

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OPEN AT 3PM
COWBOYS HORNS 3:15PM 7PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27
TONI PRICE CATCH A DREAM (OPENING)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
MARK ALLAN ATWOOD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
BROOKS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
TEXAS RENEGADE DOUG KENT (OPENER)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
BAD RODEO

DEC. 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE **CAROLYN WONDERLAND**
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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26
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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27
GARY CLARK JR.
 THE MERCY BABY REVUE WITH MIKE FLANIGIN AND THE MOELLERS!
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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28TH
DEL CASTILLO
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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28TH
BOB SCHNEIDER 10 PM
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH
Seth Walker 9pm \$10
Drew Smith 12am \$10
 No Cover Happy Hour
 Earl Poole Ball & The Cosmic Americans 6pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH
Guy Forsyth The Return of the King of South Austin
 Doors 7 Show 8pm \$12 Door
Micky & the Motorcars
 \$10 Adv / \$12 Door - Show at 11:30pm

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH
THE RESENTMENTS
 With Bruce and Scrapy 7:30pm \$7
MILKDRIVE 6pm \$5
 Garrett LeBeau 10:30-11:30 / \$5
THE HI-TONES 12AM \$5

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
BOB SCHNEIDER'S LONELYLAND
 8:30 \$10
 Matt the Electrician 7:00pm \$10
 Jeff Plankenhorn 11pm \$5
 The Walls 12:30pm \$5

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
Uncle Lucius 10pm \$5
Mystic Knights of the Sea 10pm \$5
Deadman 12am \$5
 No Cover Happy Hour Waylon Payne

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
MONTE MONTGOMERY 8pm \$10
Zane Williams 10pm \$10
Ouachita 12am \$5
 No Cover Happy Hour with THE NORTONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
CORY MORROW

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Texas Bluegrass Massacre
 9pm \$15

SAT. 11/28 Uncle Lucius Shinyribs
 9pm \$10

SUN. 11/29 George Ensle
 Gospel Brunch
 11am no cover

Fair Weather Fire Pit Friday Series
FRI. 12/4 Charlie Mars
 9pm <KGSR> \$20
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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY

BEERLAND The Mysterious H, Bottle Service, Monkey Town
'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Weldon Henson
CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Coffee Sergeants, J.T. Wright & Solstice (7:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Jordan Minor (9:00)
CLUB 1808 Sept. 11th Quartet, Ohioan, Ah Holly Family, Waco Girls (10:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30); Alejandro Escovedo, David Garza (10:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Bryce Clifford (6:00)
EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Kris Kimura (9:30)
ELYSIUM Nineties Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus
EMO'S Inside: A Giant Dog, the Features, the Whigs; Outside: Fight Fair, Kill Paradise, Stephen Jerzak, Cash Cash, Breathe Carolina
EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Lost & Nameless Orchestra (7:00), Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)
FRIENDS Travis Green, Erin Jaimes (7:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Adam Carroll Songwriter Night w/ Robyn Ludwick (7:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)
HANOVER'S Cobalt

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burkland
JOVITA'S JWW & the Prospectors (7:30)
LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
LA ZONA ROSA Metric
LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)
MERCURY HALL Inside Books Benefit w/ Bright Light Social Hour (7:00)
MOMO'S Arthur Yoria, Frederico & the Hasashins, Ahmed Arbab, No Show Ponies
ONE 2 ONE BAR Big Circle, TX; Karl Morgan (9:00)
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Sand Sheff (7:30)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos
RED EYED FLY Justin Black & the Big Heart, Stumbledrunk, Radio Valley, Daniels & Animals
RED FEZ Benmused Showcase, Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (9:00)
RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Erin & Michael (9:00)
SAXON PUB Waylon Payne (5:00), Mystic Knights of the Sea, Uncle Lucius, Deadman (8:00)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Five Ways From Sunday
SPEAKEASY O Positivo (9:30)
THUNDERBIRD COFFEE Sean Renner (8:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Michael Reaux & the Outriders (7:00)

WED 02

THE AMSTERDAM Subrosa Union (11:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE The J&A Show (7:30)
BAR 141 Electric Mayhem (9:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BEAUTY BAR Rock Out Cook Out w/ Not in the Face, the Vitamins, Dirty Dancing
BEERLAND Andrew Anderson
BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Dale Watson (6:00)
CACTUS CAFE Shelley King CD Release (8:30)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Soulphonics (7:00)
CHAIN DRIVE Butch County, Gretchen Phillips (10:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)
CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)
THE COCKPIT Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Blondell, Trube, Farrell & Sniz (8:00); In the Club: Stone River Boys (6:30); Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Bruce Smith (6:00)
EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Ephraim Owens (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister
EMO'S Outside: Vverewolf Grehv, Skinny Puppy; Inside: Hiroshimabend
FLAMINGO CANTINA NORML Benefit w/ Trippin' Out West, Sun Salutation (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE George Carver (6:00); Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones, Graham Wilkinson (8:30)
FRIENDS J.T. Coldfire (10:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Stewart Mann (7:00)
HANOVER'S Josh Patton
THE INDEPENDENT AT 501 STUDIOS Freelance Whales, Fanfarlo
JOVITA'S Geeks Who Drink! (8:00)

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THUR. 11/26 Happy Thanksgiving!
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SUN. 11/29 Double Eagle String Band
 11am Bluegrass Brunch no cover

WED. 12/2 Sittin', Singin' & Supper with Earl Poole Ball
 7pm no cover

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM WEDNESDAY

LA PALAPA Acoustic w/ James
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro,
Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art
Kidd (6:30)

LATITUDE 30 Clay Jeffrey (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Lance Kotara,
Adam McInnis, Stephanie
Daulong (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Drakes
(8:00)

MOHAWK Wicked Celtics
(10:00)

MOMO'S Tongue Tied Lightning,
God & the Devil, David
Jimenez, Mobley, Suicide
Pistols

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce
Newman's Nutty Idol

ONE 2 ONE BAR Beaux Tyler,
the Twalls (8:00)

PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete
Benz (9:00)

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE
"Frankly" Singing w/ Ken
Kruse (6:30)

RED 7 Mr. Gnome

RED EYED FLY Eyes Like
Arson, Primal Rape, Ilysium,
Chowderfoot

RED FEZ Get Right Kids (10:00)

RED SHED TAVERN Dr. Dubbist
(8:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby
Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, La
Mona Loca (7:30)

SAXON PUB The Nortons
(6:00), Monte Montgomery,
Zane Williams (8:00)

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB &
GRILL** Video Stars

SPEAKEASY Soulation (9:30)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen
Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THU 03

311 CLUB Joe
Valentine (8:30)

ANTONE'S Robin Smith CD
Release (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Lone Star
Swing (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB
Preacher Keen (8:00)

BEERLAND Simple Circuit,
Dead Space, the French
Inhales

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
(9:00)

BUENOS AIRES CAFE Una
Noche Porteña Tango w/
Daniel Montserrat

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Space
Invader Orchestra, Steve
Archeri, Paper Threat (9:00)

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE
White Squirrel Music
Project

CONTINENTAL CLUB The Frank
Mustard Project, Chili Cold
Blood, Grady (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa
Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew
(8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby
Bar: Woodsboss (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD
Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Justin
Vasquez Triptych (9:30)

EMO'S Cruiserweight, Smile
Smile, Riddlin' Kids, Bowling
for Soup

FLAMINGO CANTINA Adrian &
the Sickness, Moonticca &
the Texas Clock (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy
Campbell (7:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON** Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Buster Jiggs,
Reckless Kelly (8:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band
(8:00)

LA PALAPA Triple Shot (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Grant Ewing
(10:00)

MOHAWK The Pons, Monahans,
the Distant Seconds (10:00)

MOMO'S Meagan Tubb, Isle of
White, Will Evans Project,
Derrick Davis, Meggan Carney

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN
Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Spit & Tears
(9:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Dianne
Reeves (7:00, 9:30)

RED FEZ DJ Cashless (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Henry + the
Invisibles, Brenna Manzare
(9:00)

SAXON PUB George Macias
(6:00), Tommy Castro, Seth
James (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN Katzen Benefit
Bash w/ White Knuckle
Drivers, Vinoh Mudeh, Black-
Eyed Vermillion, Moistboyz
(8:00)

SPEAKEASY Radiostar (9:30)

STUBB'S Andrew Hoover, Benji
Davis Project (10:00)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Rattlesnake
George & the Sidewinders
(10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic
Open Mic

TOM'S TABOOLEY Fractals
(8:00)

**TRAILER SPACE RECORDS
& EVENTS CENTER** Spider
Bags, John Wesley Coleman,
Cause for Applause, the
Golden Boys (7:00)

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a
Holler

Z'TEJAS Kat's Meow (6:00)

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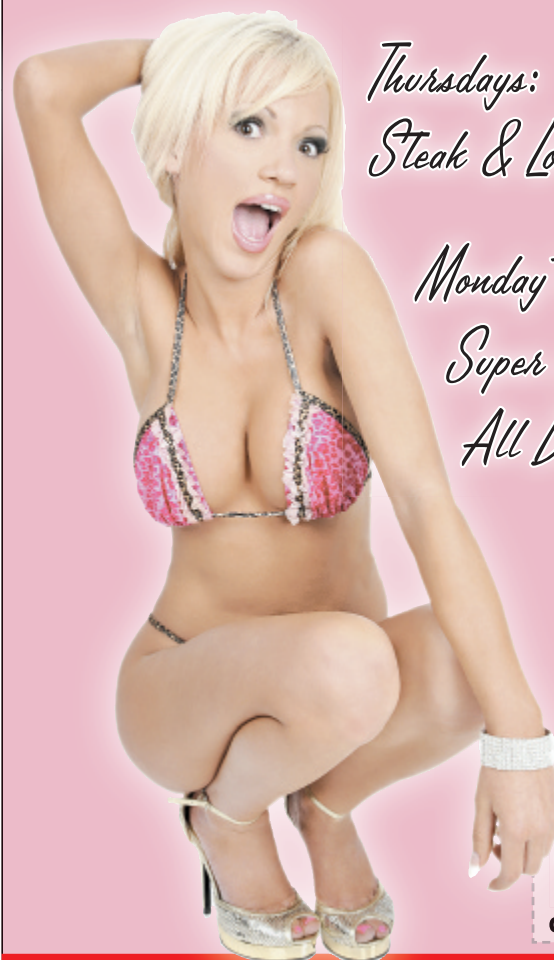
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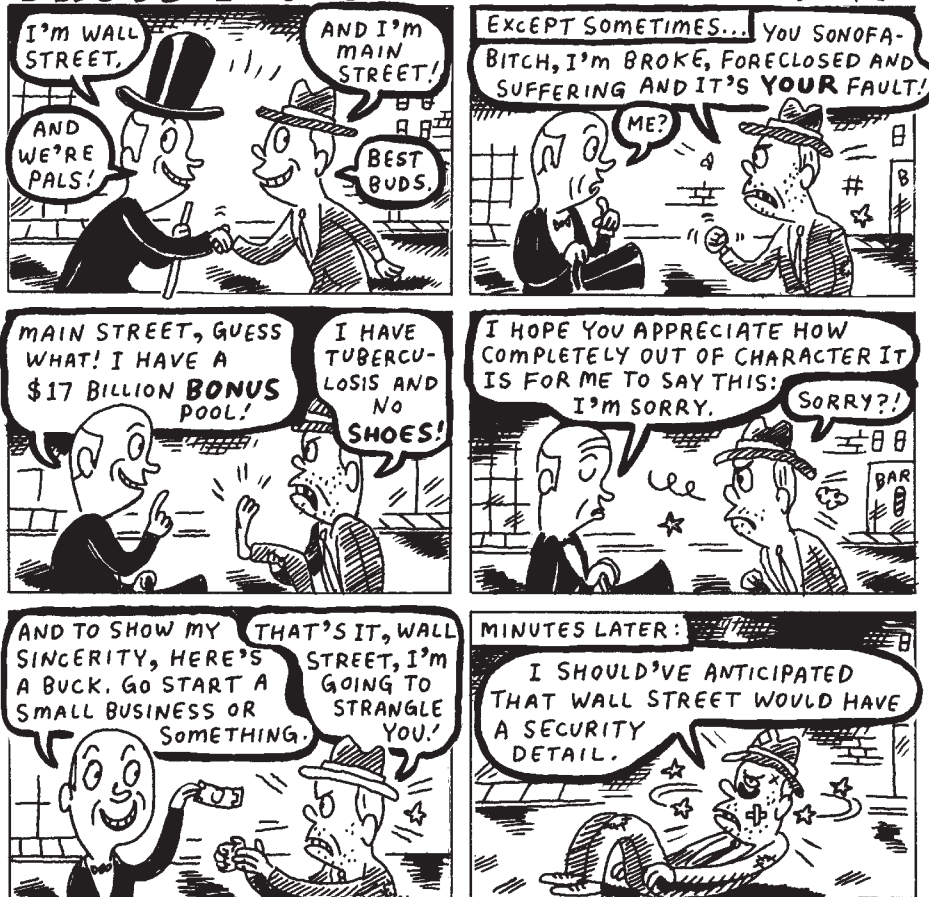


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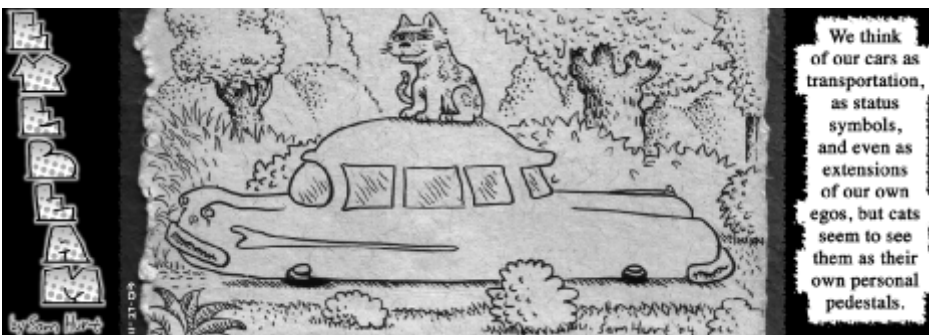
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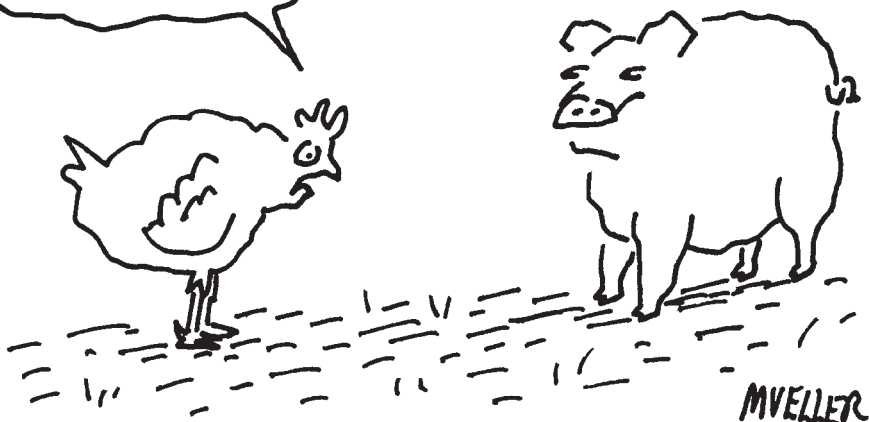
By law, any woman wanting to wear pants in Paris "must present herself to Paris' main police station to obtain authorization." A more recent amendment to the law permits trousers "as long as the woman is holding the reins of a horse." The law has been on the books since 1800.

Soul singers James Brown and Joe Tex did not like each other.

In 1894, an Austrian engineer named Hans Hörbiger predicted there was water on the moon.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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research study

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A clinical research study—STEP-D (Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy Program)—is now under way to explore an investigational medication for major depressive disorder (MDD) to see if it may work when taken with an approved antidepressant.

You or someone you know may be eligible to participate in the STEP-D study if you:

- Are 18 to 65 years of age.
- Have been told by your doctor that you have MDD.

- Are experiencing depression lasting at least 8 weeks.

- Have tried at least one antidepressant without success.

In addition to receiving study-related physical exams and laboratory services at no charge, participants may receive the investigational medication and will be monitored by a medical team, including a study doctor. After the STEP-D study ends, some participants may be eligible to take the investigational medication as part of another clinical research study.

Visit STEPmdd.com, or call Community Clinical Research, Inc. for more information toll free

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Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse and it has affected your sexuality you may qualify.

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A clinical research study—STEP-D (Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy Program)—is now under way to explore an investigational medication for major depressive disorder (MDD) to see if it may work when taken with an approved antidepressant.

Ask your doctor if the **STEP-D** study is right for you.



You or someone you know may be eligible to participate in the STEP-D study if you:

- Are 18 to 65 years of age.
- Have been told by your doctor that you have MDD.
- Are experiencing depression lasting at least 8 weeks.
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In addition to receiving study-related physical exams and laboratory services at no charge, participants may receive the investigational medication and will be monitored by a medical team, including a study doctor. After the STEP-D study ends, some participants may be eligible to take the investigational medication as part of another clinical research study.

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN PRESCOTT PRICE Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-001484 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

JEFFREY DON PRICE alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on November 02, 2009, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said JOHN PRESCOTT PRICE, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on November 03, 2009.

Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. BOX 149325 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325 By Deputy: / D. MENDEZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-09-003529

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CASEY AND CLARA MAE MITCHELL Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the DECEMBER 7, 2009, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on OCTOBER 14, 2009, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-09-003529, in which RUBY COOK Plaintiff(s) and the UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CASEY AND CLARA MITCHELL Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows: **BEING A SUIT TO QUIET TITLE FOR THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY: LOT 4, BLOCK 8, CHERNO-SKY NO. 16, A SUBDIVISION IN AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT OF RECORD IN VOLUME 88 PAGE 93 OF TRAVIS COUNTY PLAT RECORDS ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.**

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, October 22, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

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Travis County Courthouse
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FAX: (512) 477-8217

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF WESTLEY HUGHES, JR. Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-01466 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

DORIS HUGHES The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on OCTOBER 29, 2009, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said WESTLEY HUGHES, JR., Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on OCTOBER 29, 2009.

Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. BOX 149325 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325 By Deputy: /s/ ROXANNE TORREZ

CONSTABLE'S SALE Under and by virtue of a Writ of Execution issued on the 12th day of JULY in Cause Number 006112 by the TRAVIS COUNTY JUSTICE COURT PRECINCT FOUR in favor of ROOFING BY STACY PEARSON INC., Plaintiffs, recovered a judgment against: THOMAS PEEL DBA SPEARHEAD CONSTRUCTION, Defendant(s);

FIVE THOUSAND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000) Together with the sum of TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,700) Cost(s) as taxed on said Writ of Execution, and the further cost of executing the same, I have levied on the 10 day of November, 2009 and will offer for sale and sell on the 1st day of December, 2009 same being the 1st day of December, 2009 at the steps of the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, of Travis County, in the City of Austin, Texas, between the hours of Ten O'Clock A.M. and Four O'Clock P.M. and any and all right, title, interest and claim which the said Defendant(s) THOMAS PEEL DBA SPEARHEAD CONSTRUCTION had of, in or to the following described Real Property situated in Travis County, Texas viz:

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REAL PROPERTY RECORDED AS DOCUMENT 287413

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RICHARD MCCAIN, Constable Precinct Three, Travis County, Texas

By Deputy: /s/ Charles Stone, Senior Deputy

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NO. C-1-PB-09-001300 THE ESTATE OF BOBBIE JO BERRY, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT NUMBER ONE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BOBBY JO BERRY Pursuant to Texas Probate Code 294, notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Bobbie Jo Berry were issued on the 17th day of November, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001300 pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: Mark R. Davis

Claims to be presented should be addressed to Independent Administrator, Estate of Bobbie Jo Berry at: 105 East 2nd Street, P.O. Box 690, Elgin, Texas 78621

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

MARK R. DAVIS
By: /s/ Ernest F. Bogart,
Attorney

State Bar # 02556500

OWEN, BOGART, ROGERS AND NISIMBLAT
105 East 2nd Street
P.O. Box 690
Elgin, Texas 78621
(512) 281-3326
(512) 281-5094 FAX

NO. C-1-PB-09-001351 IN THE ESTATE OF JAMIE ANDERSON PACE, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT NO. ONE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JAMIE ANDERSON PACE Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JAMIE ANDERSON PACE were issued on the 17th day of November, 2009 in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001351 pending in the Probate Court #1 of Travis County, Texas to: THOMAS LEONARD PACE

THOMAS LEONARD PACE'S mailing address is: Thomas Leonard Pace 13007 Ben Milam Dr Manchaca, TX 78652

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

THOMAS LEONARD PACE
By: /s/ Jerry Frank Jones,
Attorney

State Bar No. 10913000
400 W. 15th St., Suite 975
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (512) 476-2929
Fax: (512) 472-3669

**NO. C-1-PB-09-001461
IN THE ESTATE OF
DONALD QUILL KIDD, DE-
CEASED**

**IN THE PROBATE COURT
NO. ONE OF TRAVIS
COUNTY, TEXAS**

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF DONALD
QUILL KIDD** Notice is hereby
given that original Letters
Testamentary for the Estate
of DONALD QUILL KIDD
were issued on the 6th day of
October, 2009 in Cause No.
C-1-PB-09-001461 pending in
the Probate Court #1 of Travis
County, Texas to: KAREN
LOUANNE KIDD MCGEE

KAREN LOUANNE KIDD
MCGEE's mailing address is:
Karen Louanne Kidd McGee
3902 Gemstone

Austin, TX 78749

All persons having claims
against this Estate which is
currently being administered
are required to present them
within the time and in the
manner prescribed by law.
KAREN LOUANNE KIDD
MCGEE

By: /s/ Jerry Frank Jones,
Attorney

State Bar No. 10913000
400 W. 15th St., Suite 975

Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: (512) 476-2929

Fax: (512) 472-3669

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED
VEHICLES** Pursuant to Texas
Abandoned Motor Vehicle
Act, the following vehicle(s)
will be sold at Public Auction
if not claimed within 70 days.

Garagekeeper:

**A&A WRECKER AND
RECOVERY, LLC**

**2963 MANOR ROAD
AUSTIN, TX 78722**

(512)670-7578

Year: 1999

Make: Oldsmobile

Model: Intrigue

License Plate # 47C877W

Vin #1G3WH52K3XF34836

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED
VEHICLES PURSUANT TO
TEXAS ABANDONED MO-
TOR VEHICLE ACT THE
FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD
AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS
CHARGES ARE SATISFIED
WITHIN 30 DAYS.**

**GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTH-
SIDE WRECKER, 8200 S
WGRESS, AUSTIN, TX,
78745.**

CHEVY 164376R230066

1985 DODGE PK
1B7FD1477FS628773

2000 GMC

1GTCS1447Y8117212

HOMEMADE TRAILER NO
VIN # NO LP

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods herein-after described and stored at the Uncle Bob's Self Storage locations listed below. And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the below stated locations(s) to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash Only.

Uncle Bob's #285

9717 U.S. HWY 290 E

Austin, TX 78724

(512) 278-1220

**Tuesday, 12-15-2009 @
9:00AM**

228 Brooke Jowell: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip, off mach/equip, construction equip, acctng rcrds, sales samples

548 Diane Veal: hslsd gds, boxes, TV/stereo equip
609 Kynndel Samuel: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip

802 Jorge Baez: furn gds, boxes, spring gds, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip, off mach/equip, construction equip

823 Brandis Foley: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, appliances, TV/ stereo equip

2247 Jose Nieto Granados: band equip

6638 John C. Mason: hslsd gds, boxes, appliances

Uncle Bob's #231

8227 North Lamar

Austin, TX 78753

**(512) 833-0855
Tuesday, 12-15-2009 @
9:30AM**

361 Angela Courtney: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip
902 Duran Alicia: hslsd gds, furn, boxes

922 Ninfa Garza: furn, boxes, appliances, TV/stereo equip

926 Jeff Cotton: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip

934 Julia S. Knight: hslsd gds

936 Kevin Pettis: tools, appliances

958 Penny Galindo: clothes, electr.

1001 Melinda Dalton: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip, accounting records

1021 Brenda Marie Bell: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip, off mach/equip, other

1023 Brian Bailey: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, tools, appliances, TV/stereo equip

7732 Joey Smith: furn, boxes, appliances, TV/stereo equip

Uncle Bob's #276

2830 South A.W. Grimes Blvd

Round Rock, TX 78664

(512) 310-0279

**Tuesday, 12-15-2009 @
10:00AM**

5112 Brittany Stautmeister: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office furniture, landscaping equip, account records

5114 Marcus Nickerson: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, landscaping equip

5122 Onnesha Williams: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

5312 Orlando Zapata: household goods, furniture, TV's or stereo equip

5318 Cathy Blackson: furni- ture, boxes, sporting goods

6125 Melissa Mitchell: household goods, boxes, TV's or stereo equip, account records, hygiene, personal

6309 Linna M. Shuler: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

7122 Jayme McDaniel: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office equip

8125 Tiffany Kirby: household goods, boxes, appliances

8237 David Kennedy: household goods, furniture

8302 Ansley Judie: household goods, tools, electronics

8325 Brenda Gant: household items, boxes, childrens toys

9104 Lois Denise Wells: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

9125 Hunter Nau: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip

9405 Natasha Wright: household goods, boxes

9663 Kelly Vance: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office furniture

Uncle Bob's #197

5547 McNeil Dr.

Austin, TX 78729

(512) 336-8390

**Tuesday, 12-15-2009 @
10:30 a.m.**

1003 Shirley Dewitt: boxes, TV/stereo equip

609 Kynndel Samuel: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip

1302 Teresa Pleasant: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, TV/stereo equip

1318 Nicole Murchison- Southard: hslsd gds, furn, boxes, sporting gds, appliances, TV/stereo equip, acct rcrds

Uncle Bob's #198

10307 FM 2222

Austin, TX 78730

(512) 372-9046

Tuesday, 12-15-09 @ 11:00 a.m.

233 Josh Shurgine: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, TV's or stereo equip

737 Steve Schlabs: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, acct records

826 Halley Brooks: household goods, furniture, boxes

829 Halley Brooks: household goods

861 Halley Brooks: household goods, furniture

Uncle Bob's #287

6509 South First Street

Austin, TX 78745

(512) 326-9696

Tuesday, 12-15-09 @ 12 noon

P24 Benito G. Gomez Jr.: Taco Stand

253 Fermin R. Pineda: boxes, tools

256 Edric Brooks: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office furniture

278 Dale Efflandt: household goods

306 Jerry Chrane: others

2241 Tramisha Green: furni- ture, TV's or stereo equip

2434 Arthur Mendez: boxes

3113 Pamela Beck: household goods, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

3239 Marie Parrish: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office furniture, account records, motorcycle

3239 Nancy Darby: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office furniture, account records, motorcycle

3302 Alex Penrod: household goods, furniture, boxes

3311 Joseph Herman: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools

3407 Darwyne D. McVey: boxes

3523 Maria Betancourt: household goods, furniture

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

U-STORE-IT hereby gives notice of Public Sale under the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. This sale will be held on **December 8, 2009** beginning at 10:00 A.M. at the U-STORE-IT located at 10025 Manchaca Road Austin, Texas. This sale will continue to each designated address location listed below after the completion of the beginning sale. This sale is being held to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. Everything sold is purchased "as is" "where is" for cash. U-STORE-IT reserves the right to set a minimum bid, refuse any bid, or to cancel any Public Sale that is advertised. Announcements made the day of the sale take precedence over any printed materials related to the sale.

U-Store-It #753

10025 Manchaca Rd

Austin, TX. 78748

512-292-1760

Unit 698, David Strother - Boxes, Chairs, Suitcase, Table, Golf Clubs, Shelf, File Cabinet

Unit 687, David Strother - Shelf, Table, Sprayer, Roofing Equipment, Totes, Rake, Saw Horse.

Unit 402, Adam Rangel - Baby Crib, Bed, Bicycle, Boxes, Chair, Dresser, Fishing Poles, Ladder, Stereo, TV

Unit 223, Amanda Jaynes - Bed frame and headboard, Boxes, Chairs, Ladders, Shelves, Sofa, Table, BBQ Grill, Weed Eater, Carpets, Mirror, tires, blower

U-Store-It #751

610 E. Stasney Lane

Austin, TX 78745

512-441-8300

Unit 1024, Mo Chapman - Ladder, Totes, Skis, wood, Metal Chest, Wood Door.

Unit 2041, sergio Vasquez - Bicycle, Boxes, Chairs, Ice Chest, Ladder, Microwave Oven, Refrigerator, Shelves, TV, Totes, Pool Cues, Scooter, Toys

Unit 2139, David Baca - Bed, Books, Chair, Lamp, Microwave Oven, Easel, Toys, Guitar Case, Rifle

Unit 2148, Kent Warner - Bed, TV Stand

Unit 2202, Mo Chapman - Box Spring, Chair, Dryer, Refrigerator, Sofa, Washing Machine, Bar Stool, Oven, Totes, Toys, Buggy, Computer Monitor, Trash Cans, Life Preserver.

Unit 3028, Michelle Venzor - Bags, Bed, Bookcase, Boxes, Dresser, Lamp, Table, TV, Computer, Totes, Crates

Unit 3102, Gregorio A. Santibanez - Boxes, Pictures, Speakers, Totes, Chest, Wood Furniture

Unit 3249, Nick Barrera - Bed, Boxes, Cabinet, Chairs, Desk, Ice Chest, Lamp, Rug, Suitcase, Tote, Baskets, Pet Carrier, Computer

Unit 3274, Kendra L. McDonald - Bags, Chair, Table, Futon Mattress, Laundry Baskets

AUCTIONEER: KENNETH HIERHOLZER 6568

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

ABI Storage, pursuant to Ch. 59 of the Texas Property Code, hereby gives notice of a public sale. On **December 12, 2009**, ABI Storage located at 7320 E. Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78741 will conduct a sale. Delinquent rental spaces will be auctioned off to the highest bidder at **10 a.m.** on the premises. The public is invited to attend. Total of 5 rental spaces containing misc. items, clothing, household items, appliances, furniture, construction items, tools, will be sold to satisfy Landlord

Liens. All items will be sold "as is" to the highest bidder. 10% BP CASH AND CREDIT CARDS, NO CHECKS. All items are subject to prior redemption. Tenants included in this sale are: A08 Orlando Zepeda, B19/50 Abandoned, B26 Abandoned, C09 Abandoned, C70 Marisol Flores - Auctioneer Melissa Rackel #10846

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Morningstar Self Storage hereby gives notice of Public Sale under the provisions of Chapter 59 of The Texas Property Code. This sale will be held on **December 8, 2009** beginning at **10:30am** at the **Morningstar Self Storage located at 1321 West Fifth St. Austin, Texas 78703**. This sale is being held to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. Everything sold is purchased "as is" "where is" for cash. U-STORE-IT reserves the right to set a minimum bid, refuse any bid, or to cancel any Public Sale that is advertised. Announcements made the day of the sale take precedence over any printed materials related to the sale.

David Wang: Boxes, bags, clothing. Phillip Overton: Hand truck, clothing, sword, chest, boxes, bedding, ladder, wheel chair, and paintings. Charles Szabo: Wood furniture, mirror, chairs, tables, and cabinet. Steven Seymour: Boxes, mattresses, office chairs, sofa, easels, table.

AUCTIONEER: KENNETH HIERHOLZER 6568

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

PS Oraneco, Inc. hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash,

or credit cards, NO CHECKS, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the 9th of December 2009 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.

Wednesday, December 9th 2009.

9:00 a.m. Public Storage @9814 Westgate Blvd, Austin, TX 78748

0086 MARK SMITH, BOXES, FURNITURE, COMPUTER

0208 SALLY ERDOS, BOXES, FURNITURE, TRUNK

0404 ELAINE DAVIS, BAGS, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

0447 ADRIAN ALARCON, TOOL BOX, TOOLS, FURNITURE

0614 JOSEPH NEAL, SHELVING, BOXES, CHAIR

9:30a.m. Public Storage @ 7200 S 1st Street., Austin, TX 78745

B054 SEAN HELTON, FURNITURE, BOXES, TOTES

B056 MARY CASTILLO, BOXES, BABY CAR SEAT, BED

E129 STEVE LOPEZ, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

F168 ANDRE BAILEY, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

G213 VERONICA LUNA, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

K288 ERIC REYNA, HAND DOLLY, FURNITURE, BOXES

L327 RUBEN JUAREZ, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

N435 COURTNEY WHIDDON, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

R555 JAMES LAWLER, TOOL BOX, FLOOR JACK, TOOLS

S574 ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

V691 HANNAH CAREY, BOXES, BIKE, FURNITURE

W807 LISA MCLAUGHLIN, BOXES, CLOTHING, FURNITURE

10:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 7112 S Congress, Austin, TX 78745

B20 SUSAN HARGIS, BOXES, FURNITURE, TV

C5 DAREN BLAKE BUETOW, TOTES, FURNITURE, GOLF CLUBS

C22 SHANIQUA WEST-BROOK, BAGS, CLOTHING, RUG

E9 CARLOS CHAVARRIA, WASHER, DRYER, ELECTRONICS

F4 ROBERT G RENTERIA, COMPUTER, LAMP,BOXES

F6 BRENDA TREMINIO, FURNITURE, BOXES, TV

F30 CARLOS RIVAS, DESK, CHAIR, BOXES

G30 JAMIE DONNELL THOMAS, FURNITURE, BOXES, TOTES

J52 HIEDI MAUREK, CLOTHING, BOXES, FURNITURE

J58 JACKIE AUGUSTIN, BOXES, BEDDING, FURNITURE

K39 ROBERT JONES, TOOLS, FLOOR JACK, FURNITURE

L79 CROSS COUNTRY VAN LINES, FURNITURE, TOOL BOX, APPLIANCES

M75 JOHNNY ANGEL RODRIGUEZ, WASHER, DRYER, FURNITURE

N10 DOMINIC SANDERS, BOXES, FURNITURE

10:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, TX 78745

102 YVETTE MADRID, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

386 PAUL EASLEY, TOTES, FURNITURE

397 ARMANDO MEJIA, TOTES, FURNITURE, COMPUTERS

561 HILDA RODRIGUEZ, BOXES, FURNITURE, TOYS

647 MICHAEL ROSENFELD, REFRIGERATOR, LAWN-MOWER, LADDER

691 KEVIN IVEY, FURNITURE

712 DON RHOADES, BOXES, FURNITURE, TOYS

11:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 2301 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

1042 TERRANCE HORTON, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

1129 KIMBERLY PARKER, BAGS

2030 OLIVIA ARCHBOLD, BEDDING, BOXES, FURNITURE

2045 BERNICE CASAS, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

2083 TERRY TRISTAN, WASHER, DRYER

2087 AKINA GENTLE, FURNITURE, BEDDING

2138 APRIL KING, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

2134 FIESTA TORTILLAS, BOXES

2164 MARY HANSEN, BOXES, ELECTRONICS

3015 ALICE COLLINS, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

3112 MICHAEL JOSEPH, BOXES, SUITCASES, CLOTHING

3165 NELLIE CASTILLO, BAGS, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

3208 DAVID MUTH, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3213 AMY FISHER, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

11:15 a.m. Public Storage @ 5016 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

B029 WAVERLY MOUNSHAU, BOXES, FURNITURE

C025 FERNANDO RAMIREZ, BEDDING, BICYCLE

C066 CRYSTAL BROWN, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

C067 JEROME JOHNSON, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

C083 RONALD CORLEY, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

C112 DAVID DUDLEY, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

C199 DEANN AMBOREE, BOXES, BAGS

C202 JOE LONGORIA, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

C328 BRITTNEY WALKER, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

C329 ROCHELLE MCDOWELL, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

READER NEEDS HELP BREAKING IN TO OVERHEAD CONSOLE

Dear Tom and Ray:

My wife's 90-year-old aunt recently allowed us to take her 1995 Dodge Caravan with 55,000 miles. She said it needed to be driven, as she hadn't driven it in more than 17 months. Since we have received this vehicle, interior parts have been falling off of it at a rapid clip. I'll spare you the many details, but the one I really need to fix quickly involves the power rear side-vent windows. They both opened fine, but then the one on the right side quit working with the window in the open position. I believe the switch is bad or a wire has come loose on it. I need to get into the overhead console but cannot figure out how to remove it. Does it just snap into place, or is it connected by hidden screws?

— Albert

RAY: It just snaps in and out, Albert. But it only comes out with a fair use of force.

TOM: So, add "overhead console bezel" to the list of interior parts you need to pick up at the junkyard so you'll have a replacement ready when you break the bezel on this one.

RAY: I would suggest that you go to a local body shop and ask them to show you how it comes off. They'll know just how much pressure to exert on it. Even if you have to pay them for the demonstration, it'll be worth it, because it'll keep you from breaking the thing, and you'll know how to remove it when the left side window switch breaks.

TOM: But there are no screws involved, and it pops back on very easily — unlike the rearview mirror, the door handles, and the other stuff that's fallen off. Good luck, Albert.

* * *

If you buy a used car, will you just be inheriting the previous owner's problem? Tom and Ray dispel this and other myths about used cars in their pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, *Ask Click and Clack: Answers From Car Talk*. Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on



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continued

legal notices

4101 MARIE DELAGARZA, BOXES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

4123 EUGENE BUTLER, BOXES, FURNITURE, GOLF CLUBS

4154 TORIE DANIELS, FURNITURE, BOXES, TOTES

4174 LILA HECIMOVICH, SUITCASE, BAGS, BACKPACK

5132 DONNA PHARR, BOXES, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

9:30am Public Storage @ 1001 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

1007 COREY MACK, FURNITURE, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

1010 FADIA KEBREAU, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

1022 JESSICA MCGLOTH-ERN, ELECTRONICS, TOOLS, BOXES

1058 FELICIA WASHINGTON, BEDS, TOYS, ELECTRONICS

2008 ALICIA OATLEY, BAGS, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

5030 ARIEL GOODMAN, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

6014 RENEE ROPP, BOXES, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

7027 LASHMA TAYLOR, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

8006 JOHN MELENDEZ, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

10:00am Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

A039 RHONDA MORRISON, FURNITURE, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

B001 RUGEN PROPPS, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

B018 JEFFREY PAUL CALDERON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

B045 MEGAN VERIN WEST, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

B078 JIMMIE DOBBS, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

C049 DEBBY MAGALLANEZ TOWNLEY, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

C061 WELDON MEDEARIS JR, TOTES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

D016 TIMOTHY SMITHERS, BOXES, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

D028 KATHRYN BROWN BURLERSON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

D133 MILTON HAVINS, BAGS, TOTES, FURNITURE

D143 JASON ROSTAMI, BAGS, TOTES, FURNITURE

E068 ANTHONY WILKINS, BAGS, TOTES, FURNITURE

H010 JAMES WILLIE 3RD MERCER, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

10:30am Public Storage @ 937 Reini, Austin, TX, 78751

199 BRENDA WHITE, BOXES, TOTES, ELECTRONICS

201 JEREMY GOOMDA, BOXES, GRILL

229 SEAN CARAWAY, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

303 MARIA CASTILLO, THEATER PROPS, COSTUMES

618 VINCENT HERNANDEZ III, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

706 RELIEF ENTERPRISES INC, FILES, OFFICE EQUIP, VACUM

914 JEFFREY PAYNE, TOOLS

11:00am Public Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

1037 CHRISTINA DIBBLES, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

1055 LETHA ROBINSON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

111 MARY HELEN GAAS, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

1505 CRAIG GATEWOOD, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

159 DARCY FARNHAM, VEHICLE DIESEL

166 JOSE RODRIGUEZ, BOXES, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

182 WILLIAM ROSS, BOXES, FURNITURE, TOYS

D505 BONNIE BRUCE, BOXES, TOTES

D519 NATHAN MUNGUUA, BOXES, BAGS, BEDDING

D567 OLGA VASQUEZ, BOXES, TOTES, BEDDING

D630 MIGUEL MALDONADO, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

D598 BOB MONTEZ, EXERCISE BIKES

D656 PRINTESS KENNEY, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

2:00pm Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

2063 PAUL ALVARADO, TOTES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

2136 CHELSEA GRADNEY, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

A03A STARFISH CAPITAL ADVISORS, INC, BOXES, FURNITURE, BOOKS

A05G ADRIAN CLARK, BOXES, TOTES, BEDDING

C009 WENDY LISTER, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

C031 RAYMOND BARRON, FURNITURE, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

E001 STEVEN MCCOY, BAGS, BOOK, BAGS

2:30pm Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78750

2021 IMELDA SAAVEDRA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3093 ROGER HANNA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

5051 WILLIAM ROSS, FURNITURE, BOXES, BAGS

5078 RAMON PARRA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

D033 NICOLE ROBINSON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3:00pm Public Storage @ 13675 N US HWY 183 Austin, TX 78750

0106 JERI BAYLOR, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

0206 TRISHA BREITBARTH, FURNITURE, BEDDING, TOYS

0214 MISTY BAUER, BOXES, BAGS, TOYS

2243 STEFFANIE ROULET, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

2302 MICHELLE JACKSON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3:30pm Public Storage @ 1517 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, TX 78681

1168 JARED A. DIAZ, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

1178 MARY EKENE, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

4113 MARY COVINGTON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

5116 LORI ASHTON, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

6101 RACHEL MOSLEY, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

6112 GARY MICHAEL TAFF, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

8131 CHARLOTTE CHAVIS, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

8144 TRISTAN HOLMES, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

8146 DANIEL BIRD, BOXES, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ROBERTO JOSE RIVERA, DECEASED CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-09-001192

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Notice is hereby given that on November 17, 2009, Letters of Independent Administration were issued to:

MARIA DEL PILAR RIVERA by the Honorable Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, in Cause Number C-1-PB-09-001192 pending upon the Probate Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said estate are on notice of this administration and are hereby requested to present the same within the time prescribed by law to:

D'ANA H. MIKESKA MCGINNIS, LOCHRIDGE & KILGORE, L.L.P., 600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100, Austin, Texas 78701.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF RUBY BLOOMQUIST HACKETT, DECEASED CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-09-001287

D505 BONNIE BRUCE, BOXES, TOTES

D519 NATHAN MUNGUUA, BOXES, BAGS, BEDDING

D567 OLGA VASQUEZ, BOXES, TOTES, BEDDING

D630 MIGUEL MALDONADO, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

D598 BOB MONTEZ, EXERCISE BIKES

D656 PRINTESS KENNEY, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

2:00pm Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

2063 PAUL ALVARADO, TOTES, FURNITURE, BEDDING

2136 CHELSEA GRADNEY, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

A03A STARFISH CAPITAL ADVISORS, INC, BOXES, FURNITURE, BOOKS

A05G ADRIAN CLARK, BOXES, TOTES, BEDDING

C009 WENDY LISTER, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

C031 RAYMOND BARRON, FURNITURE, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS

E001 STEVEN MCCOY, BAGS, BOOK, BAGS

2:30pm Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78750

2021 IMELDA SAAVEDRA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3093 ROGER HANNA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

5051 WILLIAM ROSS, FURNITURE, BOXES, BAGS

5078 RAMON PARRA, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

D033 NICOLE ROBINSON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3:00pm Public Storage @ 13675 N US HWY 183 Austin, TX 78750

0106 JERI BAYLOR, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

0206 TRISHA BREITBARTH, FURNITURE, BEDDING, TOYS

0214 MISTY BAUER, BOXES, BAGS, TOYS

2243 STEFFANIE ROULET, BOXES, TOTES, FURNITURE

2302 MICHELLE JACKSON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

3:30pm Public Storage @ 1517 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, TX 78681

1168 JARED A. DIAZ, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

1178 MARY EKENE, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

4113 MARY COVINGTON, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

5116 LORI ASHTON, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

6101 RACHEL MOSLEY, BEDDING, ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE

6112 GARY MICHAEL TAFF, BOXES, BAGS, TOTES

8131 CHARLOTTE CHAVIS, BOXES, BAGS, FURNITURE

8144 TRISTAN HOLMES, BOXES, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS

8146 DANIEL BIRD, BOXES, BAGS, ELECTRONICS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ROBERTO JOSE RIVERA, DECEASED CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-09-001192

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Notice is hereby given that on November 17, 2009, Letters of Independent Administration were issued to:

MARIA DEL PILAR RIVERA by the Honorable Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, in Cause Number C-1-PB-09-001192 pending upon the Probate Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said estate are on notice of this administration and are hereby requested to present the same within the time prescribed by law to:

D'ANA H. MIKESKA MCGINNIS, LOCHRIDGE & KILGORE, L.L.P., 600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100, Austin, Texas 78701.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF RUBY BLOOMQUIST HACKETT, DECEASED CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-09-001287

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Notice is hereby given that on October 15, 2009, Letters Testamentary were issued to: JEAN ELIZABETH HACKETT and RUTH CHRISTINA HACKETT GREGORY by the Honorable Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, in Cause Number C-1-PB-09-001287 pending upon the Probate Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said estate are on notice of this administration and are hereby requested to present the same within the time prescribed by law to:

THOMAS O. BARTON MCGINNIS, LOCHRIDGE & KILGORE, L.L.P., 600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100, Austin, Texas 78701.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM WAYNE JUSTICE

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of WILLIAM WAYNE JUSTICE were issued on November 17, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001440, pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: ELLEN ROWAN JUSTICE

The address of such Independent Executor is 1101 Belmont Parkway, Austin, Texas 78703.

The Independent Executor directs that all claims against this Estate be addressed to: ELLEN ROWAN JUSTICE

Representative of the Estate of WILLIAM WAYNE JUSTICE c/o Nancy N. Scherer

Scherer & Scherer 602 West 13th Street Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 17th day of November, 2009.

NANCY N. SCHERER SCHERER & SCHERER 602 WEST 13TH STREET AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

ATTORNEYS FOR THE INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Nathan Irwin Snyder, Deceased, were issued on November 19, 2009, in Docket No. C-1-PB-09-001489, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: David J. Herzog.

The address of the Independent Executor is in Austin, Travis County, Texas, the mailing address is: c/o Scofield & Scofield, P.C., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 19th day of November, 2009.

Scofield & Scofield, P.C. Attorneys for the Estate By: /s/ Frank E. Scofield

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert Charles Maley, Jr., Deceased, were issued on Tuesday, November 17, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001370, pending in the Probate Court Number 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Lucia Palacios Maley.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Lucia Palacios Maley, representative, Estate of Robert Charles Maley, Jr., Deceased c/o Law Offices of Brooke Hardie

816 W. 10th Street Austin, Texas 78701

DATED the 20th day of November, 2009.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Jack Darrell Stuessy, Deceased, were issued on November 10, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001225, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to Deborah Lee Mitchell.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:

Representative, Estate of Jack Darrell Stuessy, Deceased c/o Fitzgerald & Meissner, P.C.

Bill Fitzgerald 812 San Antonio, Ste. 400 Austin, TX 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 20th day of November, 2009.

Respectfully submitted, FITZGERALD & MEISSNER, P.C.

812 San Antonio, Suite 400 Austin, Texas 78701 Telephone: (512) 474-4700 Facsimile: (512) 474-1606 By: /s/ BILL FITZGERALD State Bar No. 07082000

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Betty J. Fairweather, Deceased, were issued on November 17, 2009, in Docket No. C-1-PB-09-001432, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: James Steven Fairweather.

The address of the Independent Executor is in East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, the mailing address is: c/o Scofield & Scofield, P.C., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 17th day of November, 2009.

Scofield & Scofield, P.C. Attorneys for the Estate By: /s/ Frank E. Scofield

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Dorothy Rider Sundberg, Deceased, were issued on September 17, 2009 in Cause No. C-1-PB-07-086745, pending in Travis County Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to Sandra Kay Mastier, Independent Executor. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them to Richard Thormann, Attorney at Law, 805 West 10th Street, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701 within the time prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of HELEN L. ROMAN-SKI, Deceased, were issued on November 19, 2009, in Docket No. C-1-PB-09-001478, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to GREGORY A. ROMAN-SKI, Independent Executor. The address of record is c/o Michele Dunlap, Attorney, 5910 Courtyard Dr. Ste. 105, Austin, TX 78731. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Patricia Ann Dodds, Deceased, were issued on October 6, 2009 in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001164, pending in Travis County Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to Patricia Lucille Beissel,

Independent Executor. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them to Rose Cohen, Attorney at Law, 805 West 10th Street, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701 within the time prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of VICTOR SEL-VERA SOLIZ, Deceased, were issued on November 10, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001416, pending in the Probate Court No. ONE, Travis County, Texas, to: JESSE SOLIZ.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Karl A. Shackelford Attorney at Law 1608 West 34th Street Austin, TX 78703

DATED the 20th day of November, 2009.

/s

DRIVER, An Incapacitated Person, were issued on October 22, 2009 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas to FAMILY ELDERCARE, INC. as Guardian of the Person and Estate.

The office of Guardian is in Travis County, Texas, and the mailing address is: Family Eldercare, Inc., Guardian of Shirley Isabela Driver, 5205 Airport Blvd., Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78751.

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. SIGNED on the 17th day of November, 2009.

Christine P. Larson
Attorney for Guardian
State Bar No.: 11956500
5205 Airport Blvd., Suite 200
Austin, TX 78751
Phone: (512) 483-3555
Fax: (512) 380-9813

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS NO. C-1-PB-09-001049 Notice is hereby given that Letters of Guardianship for the Person and Estate of AMER SATLI, An Incapacitated Person, were issued on September 14, 2009 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas to FAMILY ELDERCARE, INC. as Guardian of the Person and Estate.

The office of Guardian is in Travis County, Texas, and the mailing address is: Family Eldercare, Inc., Guardian of Amer Satli, 5205 Airport Blvd., Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78751.

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. SIGNED on the 27th day of November, 2009.

Christine P. Larson
Attorney for Guardian

State Bar No.: 11956500
5205 Airport Blvd., Suite 200
Austin, TX 78751
Phone: (512) 483-3555
Fax: (512) 380-9813

SECTION 00010 NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd. (OWNER) for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, and performing all work required for the construction of **River Dance Phase 7A-2 at Steiner Ranch Water, Wastewater and Drainage Improvements** will be received at the office of: Loomis Partners, Inc. at 3101 Bee Caves Road Suite 100, Austin, TX 78746 until **1:30pm CST, December 10, 2009**. Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud. Any proposal received after the closing time will be returned unopened. Proposals shall be plainly marked with name and address of the BIDDER and the following words:

Proposal for River Dance Phase 7A-2 at Steiner Ranch Water, Wastewater and Drainage Improvements

The River Dance Phase 7A-2 at Steiner Ranch Water, Wastewater and Drainage Improvements proposal includes approximately: 1250 LF of right-of-way preparation; 900 LF of 18" 24" Class III RCP storm sewer with inlets, headwalls, manholes, and drainage appurtenances; 1,300 LF of 8" water line with fire hydrants, valves and associated appurtenances; 1,300 LF of 8" gravity wastewater sewer lines with manholes and wastewater appurtenances; 850 LF of 3" wastewater forcemain, cleanouts, valves and associated appurtenances; one duplex lift station with associated equipment; temporary erosion controls, and all necessary appurtenances for the proposed water, wastewater and drainage improvements. All work must conform to

State of Texas, City of Austin, Travis County, and Water Control Improvement District Number 17 rules and criteria. Copies of the Plans, Specifications, and Bidding Documents will be on file at the office of Loomis Partners, Inc. at 3101 Bee Caves Road, Suite 100, Austin, TX, where they may be examined without charge. Digital (pdf format) copies of the plans, specifications, and bidding documents will be made available to all bidders. Hard copies may be obtained from the ENGINEER (minimum 24-hr advance notice required) for a non-refundable fee of \$100 per set. Checks for Plans and Specifications, and Bidding Documents shall be made payable to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd.

A Cashier's Check, Certified Check or acceptable BIDDER's Bond, payable to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd. in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the Contract, the BIDDER will enter into a contract and execute bonds within ten (10) days of award of the Contract. Performance and Payment Bonds shall also be executed on the forms furnished by the OWNER and shall specifically provide for "Performance" and for "Labor and Materials Payment". Each bond shall be issued in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of contract price by a solvent Surety company, authorized to do business in the State of Texas and acceptable to the OWNER.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any and all technicalities and formalities in bidding. The OWNER reserves the right to determine which bids are lowest and best, and to award the Contract on this basis. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after opening of the bids. If a submitted bid is withdrawn within

said period, bid guaranty shall become the property of the OWNER, not as penalty, but as liquidated damages, or OWNER may pursue any other action allowed by law. A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on **December 1, 2009 at 11:00am** in the offices of Taylor Woodrow Communities at 4304 N. Quinlan Park Road, Austin, Texas 78732. Prospective bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions and scope of work.

STOR SELF STORAGE In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at Stor Self Storage locations listed below; And due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash only!

Stor Self Storage, Circle C 7401 W. Slaughter Lane Austin, Tx 512-394-9898

Joann Hall, Unit #2112 contents: Glass Table, Chester Drawers, Chairs, Desk and misc. boxes and totes.

December 8, 2009 starting at 12:00pm and will continue on to Pflugerville.

Stor Self Storage, Pflugerville 2508 W. Pecan St. Pflugerville, Tx 78660 512-990-1000. Mike Bain Unit #805 contents: 2 Large Wooden crates, Patrick McGee Unit #523 contents: Couch, love seat, king mattress, end table, and boxes.

SUMMONS (Family Law)

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name):
AVISO AL DEMANDADO (Nombre):
DAVID W. NELSON

You are being Sued. Lo están demandando.

Petitioner's name is:
Nombre del demandante:
JENNIFER ALLEN NELSON
CASE NUMBER: (Numero de Caso): DN158060
You have 30 calendar days after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120 or FL-123) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you. If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. If you want legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. You can get information about finding lawyers at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.

Tiene 30 días corridos después de haber recibido la entrega legal de esta Citación y Petición para presentar una Respuesta (formulario FL-120 o FL-123) ante la corte y efectuar la entrega legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefónica no basta para protegerlo.

Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar órdenes que afecten su matrimonio o pareja de hecho, sus bienes y la custodia de sus hijos. La corte también le puede ordenar que pague manutención, y honorarios y costos legales. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario un formulario de exención de cuotas.

Si desea obtener asesoramiento legal, póngase en contacto de inmediato con un abogado. Puede obtener

información para encontrar a un abogado en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.subcorte.ca.gov), en el sitio Web de los Servicios Legales de California (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org) o poniéndose en contacto con el colegio de abogados de su condado.

NOTICE: The restraining orders on page 2 are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. These orders are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.

AVISO: Las órdenes de restricción que figuran en la página 2 valen para ambos cónyuges o pareja de hecho hasta que se despida la petición, se emita un fallo o la corte dé otras órdenes. Cualquier autoridad de la ley que haya recibido o visto una copia de estas órdenes puede hacerlas acatar en cualquier lugar de California.

1. The name and address of the court are (El nombre y dirección de la corte son): Superior Court Of California County Of San Diego, 325 S. Melrose Dr. Vista, CA 92081

2. The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are: (El nombre, dirección y número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante si no tiene abogado, son): Alan V. Edmonds, Esq., 527 Encinitas Blvd. Ste 210, Encinitas, CA 92024 760-634-7630

Date (Fecha): OCT 26, 2009
Clerk, by (Secretario, por) J. Walls, Deputy (Asistente)
NCT 2238785 11/22,11/29,12/06,12/13/2009

TO ALL SUBCONTRACTORS: Merryman Excavation would like to invite you to bid on the "Lady Bird Lake / East 4th Street Drainage Improvements Project" FDU 8602

6307 6833, C.I.P. no. 5789.028, IFB #6100 CLUMC121

Plans and specifications are available Thru the City of Austin Public Works Department; One Texas Center 505 Barton Springs Road, Suite 760, Austin Texas 78704 for the **Refundable** purchase of \$100.00. Or you may also contact me, Ted Harmon at 815-337-1700 or e-mail ted.harmon@merrymanexcavation.com and I send you a link to your FTP site for your scope of work.

Merryman Excavation is currently looking to subcontract for the following Minority owned business activities:

Aggregate: sand/gravel/dirt/topsoil/crushed stone, etc
Asphalt Paving
Barricades, traffic cones and other devices

Erosion control services/devices

Fuel Suppliers (wholesale and retail)

Hauling by truck

Seeding and Sodding

Landscaping and irrigation

Tree trimming and removal

Boring and Drilling construction

Tunnel construction

Survey and Layout

Fence Removal and Reset

Water and Sewer Installation

Your bid shall include all appropriate scope as described in the documents. Each subcontractor is responsible to visit the site, familiarize themselves with local conditions. The lack of prebid investigation will not be considered cause for extra payment. Remember as the prime, we must bid and be low bid and responsible; any and all subcontractors must also be low bid and reasonable.

This is a ROCIP project with the City of Austin and all subcontractors must meet the requirements of the City of Austin for enrollment into their program, you must bid in accordance with their poli-

cies on this project. Payrolls for your bidding must meet or exceed the Prevailing Wage Rate Determination for Heavy and Highway Construction, County of Travis <http://www.access.gpo.gov/davis-bacon/bx.html> your certified wages records must be included with your billing for payment.

I would like to thank you ahead of time for the effort you will put forth. Please review the information and contact me with any questions or concerns at 815-337-1700. All proposals can be faxed to me at 815-337-1766. Thank you for your time.

Ted Harmon
Estimator
ted.harmon@merrymanexcavation.com

TO ALL SUBCONTRACTORS: Merryman Excavation would like to invite you to bid on the "South I-35 Segment 1 Slaughter Lane to Slaughter Creek, 36-inch Transmission Main" CIP ID NO. 6937.021

Plans and specifications are available Thru the City of Austin Public Works Department; One Texas Center 505 Barton Springs Road, Suite 760, Austin Texas 78704 for the **Refundable** purchase of \$75.00. Or you may also contact me, Ted Harmon at 815-337-1700 or e-mail ted.harmon@merrymanexcavation.com and I send you a link to your FTP site for your scope of work.

Merryman Excavation is currently looking to subcontract for the following Minority owned business activities:

Aggregate: sand/gravel/dirt/topsoil/crushed stone, etc
Asphalt Paving
Barricades, traffic cones and other devices

Erosion control services/devices

Fuel Suppliers (wholesale and retail)

THE AUTO DEPOT

CV AXLES • CLUTCHES • A/C • BRAKES
AND EVERYTHING ELSE

HAD AN ACCIDENT?
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OFF ANY MECHANICAL
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WEST OF NORTH LAMAR

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SAT 10-5PM OR BY APPT.

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OR 7 DAYS/WEEK FOR ANY OF THESE CARS OR FOR REPAIRS. WE CAN PROBABLY FIND WHAT YOU WANT.

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(RUNNING OR NOT) (ACCIDENTS OKAY)**

NEW VEHICLES FOR SALE THIS WEEK: ALL WITH OUR FAMOUS WARRANTY

1993 Toyota Camry, V6, 130k, runs, drives super, new AC conversion. \$3,250.

1995 BMW 525 4dr. auto, damage to right rear quarter- but clean inside, and drives. \$1,650.

1997 Olds Aurora - this luxury car is a one owner, loaded with leather, and only 119k. Has some hail dents, but drives perfectly, and just went through our rigorous check. \$2,650 with a full warranty.

1998 Firebird, extremely clean in and out. Recent major service. Drives super. T-tops; snappy red. \$3,250.

1998 Saturn. 5 sp. Being gone over. Warranty. \$1,950.

1998 Lexus SC300 coupe. Wow, what a car. Had quarter panel damage, but will be repaired shortly. Just a gorgeous classic. \$6,950.

1999 Toyota Solara coupe, gorgeous red, leather, sun roof, \$5,450, warranty.

We have parts for the following cars: Civic, 96-00, Accord 94-97, 4 Runner, 96-00, Lexus SC300, 92-00. We'll beat any price on the same part from a recognized salvage yard.

2001 Toyota Tundra, auto, x-cab. 64,000 miles. Had cosmetic damage to front, in process of rebodying, just a beautiful truck. Can trade, warranty, \$7,500

2001 VW Passat, V6, 4dr., 115k, very clean, drives super. Minor body work being repaired. \$4,500.

2002 Ford F-150, regular cab, auto, only 66,000 miles. Clean, nice truck. Minor body repair being done. Good title. \$5,650 with warranty, and can trade.

2002 Solara convertible. Has minor hail dents, but clean, drives super, warranty. \$3,950. Needs new rear window - blow-out price! Can trade. Warranty? What do you think!

2002 Nissan Xterra, loaded with leather, really clean with ONLY 20,000 miles! Can trade...Warranty? Of course. \$10,950.

2007 Subaru Forrester, auto, 53,000 miles. This car took a really light hit to the rear and we are in the process of repairing it. Clean as a pin. Brand new tires. Can trade, \$9,950.

continued

legal notices

Hauling by truck
Seeding and Sodding
Boring and Drilling construction
Tunnel construction
Survey and Layout
Fence Removal and Reset
Water and Sewer Installation

Your bid shall include all appropriate scope as described in the documents. Each subcontractor is responsible to visit the site, familiarize themselves with local conditions. The lack of prebid investigation will not be considered cause for extra payment. Remember as the prime, we must bid and be low bid and responsible; any and all subcontractors must also be low bid and reasonable.

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Ted Harmon
Estimator
ted.harmon@merrymanexaction.com

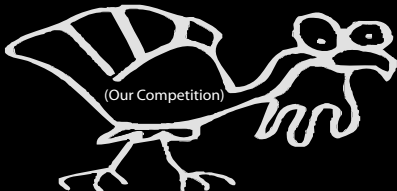
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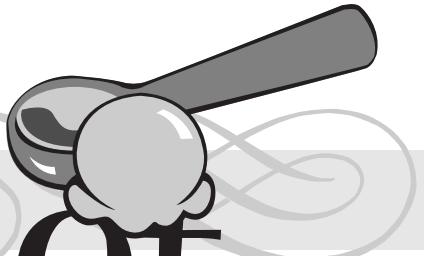
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looking for dominate much much older male 50 plus for discreet en counters. Loved to be spanked and teased. **hotneasy**, 24, #131716

LONELY NURSE

i am new to the area and will only be here till the first of the year, just looking for some discreet fun to kill the time. **babybluess26**, 39, #131689

SENSUAL KISSER LOVER

I am a 37 year old woman who wants nothing more than to spend time with someone that I can call on when I want it! I am pretty simple... **boytoywanter**, 37, #131255

SUBMISSIVE SEEKS MASTER

I'm 26 years old and love being a submissive to a knowledgeable Dominant male. I am untrained but have enough brains to know how to respect my Dom/Master. **kinkyken-dra69**, 25, #131116

BI SUBMISSIVE FEMALE

Looking for couples with bi female, bi females, straight men 21yrs of age and older for kinky 3somes, 4somes and more. **sillysandy12**, 59, #131072

ELMO LOVER

I'm a girl who just wants a lot of fun and wild things into my life. **lova-bleibra12**, 20, #130651

SENSUAL IRISH EYES

I am a very sensual, uninhibited, hedonistic woman!! love sex. I love men, singly and plurally. I write erotica, and I'm damn good at it! Meeting people and learning new things; I'm an adventurous free spirit. **irisheyas417**, 52, #130532

FALISHA

wants to meet old grey haired guy's with disposable income that enjoy deep tissue body work. I am near wimberly. **falishamc**, 55, #130388

SUB, SHY, SWEET.

I'm witty, charming, and shy, and Gemini. I love learning and having fun. I am looking for a dominant, clever, and affectionate man to befriend and maybe more. **Willow1113**, 18, #129849

SASSY NEEDING DOMINATION

Very busy and lacking release outside of daily life. Looking for someone not afraid to dominate and open to public role playing. I have a spanking fetish that needs satisfying. **burlyqgirl**, 25, #128939

MAYBE SOMETHING MORE

I am not a thin, perfect Barbie type. I'm looking for an attractive M 25-36 who can keep up. **litfred**, 31, #128782

FUN LOVING

looking to have a good time...FUN!! **jccc**, 34, #127045

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. **austinpar-tygurl1985**, 24, #119045

STRIP POKER!

We are looking for a fun women to hang out with and see what fun we can get into. We want to start slow and break the ice. first time. **mtaus-tin30**, 29, #131684

DOWNTOWN DREAM COUPLE

Looking 4 sexy, drama-free, anything goes fun with a single lady or couple, specifically no-strings horny sexy fem we can spoil and fuck and possibly even travel with! **sexylotlovers**, 31, #131373

NAUGHTY PLAYMATES WANTED

we are an attractive bi-couple(both) seeking playmates for erotic encounters of the close kind! we are seeking a bi-couple or single bi guy or girl for naughty sultry times. **playfulpair**, 30, #131360

OPEN-MINDED, SEXY COUPLE

We are a happily married couple that loves to meet new people and make friends! We always play together and never force chemistry. Feel free to ask any questions. **curiousbikers**, 27, #131117

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

We're an attractive, committed couple interested in meeting similar couples or select singles. We're safe, sane, fun, and drama-free. If you're both bi (or at least curious) that's a plus. **PairofAces**, 29, #131110

SEKKITTEN & ROCKGOD

Sexy, young couple seeking first 3way. Me: tall, blonde, slender, great in bed. Him: equally hot/long hair and tats. **CattieBrie27**, 26, #130620

HOLD NOTHING BACK

Couple (F/27 M/30) searching for another female to get down & dirty with us. We enjoy watching and participating in all ways. Always willing & open to ideas & experiments. **TRDW**, 27, #130241

BE OUR GIRLFRIEND

Hispanic couple needs some fun with a bi-female. Wife is ready to make you feel good, husband ready to watch. You, sexy and ready for pleasure. **txphcpl**, 34, #129554

3'S BETTER

sexy young couple looking for a woman to add to our spicy sex life. **menageatrois69**, 26, #128976

DP INTEREST

She is bi curious and enjoys that dp video just open to new things and wnatng to chat/mingle with people. **loadedlara**, 33, #128950

HOT MARRIED CHICK

Hi! We're a couple looking for hot guys, pretty women and good looking couples to have fun and games with. roleplay, domination, submission, "cheating" and more. No strings allowed, thanx. **anya**, 34, #128804

I WANT ACTION!

I am married, my husband dosen't know but women turn me on, I have never been with a female but i want to try it out. let's be friends! NO strings attached! **Chica_Bonita**, 20, #131893

FEMALE FOR ME

Married Hispanic BiFemale, 34 looking for BiFemale for fun encounters. Let's get together for drinks and see what happens? **femaliforme**, 34, #131835

A WET TRAIT

I am 28, sexy and looking for someone who knows how to use their hands and mouth well. Let's see how juicy I can get!!! **austinkristal**, 28, #131787

CUTE AS BUTTON!

I am an attached extremely feminine Hispanic female seeking either Hispanic or Caucasian females (FWB) (Preferably FEM) Females for some discreet fun. HOPE to hear from you! **Alyssap**, 33, #131732

EXPERIMENTALPLAY

Looking for discreet encounters w/ women like me. Married and the hubby doesn't like the idea of me being attracted to other women (oh well his loss). **lala1985**, 24, #131618

PLAYMATE(S) FOR ASIAN-BEAUTY

AsianBeauty seeks Erotic Play with Woman or Man; couples considered. I'm very open-minded, feel free to suggest your sexual fantasies. Only Inquire if you're STE-Free. **Asian-Orchid**, 24, #131487

SHY REDHEAD

chills at home. looking forspice. not very experienced, am willing to be shown the ropes. not into pain, but very imaginative. not sure what i'm looking for, open for suggestions. slightly goth but not in a gross way. **mutemuse**, 20, #130686

YOUNGNTIGHT

looking for a couple to have some fun with...im young sexy and up for just about anything so if u think u can handle me then let me know...ava **bossgurl45**, 19, #129789

RAINMAKING TRUTHSEEKER

I am an attractive nineteen-year-old bisexual female. I consider creativity, health, and honesty to be the most relevant traits in a person. I'm looking to be friends first. Be real. **sweet-eighteen**, 20, #128243

MANPLEASURER

Love men of all types...just want to do whatever makes you moan with joy...! **OverEasy**, 29, #131200

EROTIC, NUDE MESSAGES

Handsome, athletic, HM with two strong hands, seeks good-looking, muscular/athletic masculine WM studs, 30-50, for erotic, nude massages. Tatoos drive me crazy when giving massages to HOT guys. **nakedboy**, 46, #127232

A CIVIL SERVANT

Discreet, closeted bi-WM, 37 5'11 good shape and looks. Seeking a WM closeted, masculine and discreet civil servant or football player type. Large build and hairy preferred. Start slow (lunch?). **tonkatruck**, 38, #126357

CURIOUS FUNSEEKER

I am looking for someone who is also curious and willing to try different things to have discreet encounters or exchange e-mails; no strings attached. **Pugio**, 29, #128472

MAN'S LADY'S MAN

Handsome, classy, sensual lady's man who loves to be a soft, silky man's lady. Seeking couples and women for a walk on the wild side in my sexy French lingerie. **Pantyboy**, 44, #123387

WANNA PLAY?

Looking for couples (m/f, f/f) and ladies to play. I am polite and respectful. I'm ok with just about everything, you set the limits. No pain. **Imagiver**, 38, #121919

CKRET LOVE SLAVE

29 MWM 6ft 225lbs, muscular-looking for, 20-40 race unimportant for discreet encounters. Must have great hygiene! And able to host. **playboy**, 32, #121703

BLONDE T-GIRL TOP

Hot Blonde T-girl likes to "Dance and Prance". Seeking Hot "Athletic Model" type boys to work the Floor with. I like Muscles or lean. You will like All of me. **BlondeHottie**, 34, #101055

CROSSDRESSER-FEMININE INSIDE

Lifetime Crossdresser Single, 39, no children, never married. Completely shaved/I wear womens panties, shorts, sandals and shoes every day. Looking for a woman who wants to explore my feminine side. **btaco11**, 40, #130533

TV FEMME FATALE

well-endowed sensual lover, pretty face, sexy body, classy dresser, loves lingerie, make-up wigs - seeks erotic adventures with same or very feminine woman that loves lingerie, imaginative, uninhibited & discrete. **LorettaM**, 45, #118431

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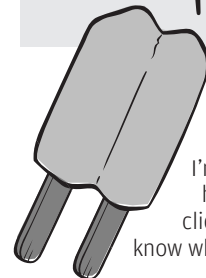
Love animals, the desert, music and traveling. Want someone at home in town or in the middle of nowhere. Horse lovers and world travelers especially sought. **Maxdeldesierito**, 47, #131879

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Flavor of the Week



missJ

I wanna get pounded

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Thanksgiving is like communism: great in theory but often ugly in execution. Of course, the same could be said of Christianity, but that holiday is still a month away, so we shouldn't get ahead of ourselves, should we? As far as Turkey Day, though, there's plenty of room for improvement. For starters, the iconography could use a little dressing up. Pilgrims and turkeys. Really? Do we have to choose between religious zealots and birds with a built-in death wish? Both seem to be

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overly eager to meet their maker, so one can assume they don't spend a lot of time counting blessings. On the other hand, walking around in high-heeled buckle shoes or with a snood and wattle hanging off your face surely brings some low points. Think about it. If you had to spend the rest of your life as a Pilgrim, you'd probably buy a box of razor blades and start drawing a warm bath. Similarly, if you had to walk around with grizzled, pulpy pieces of flesh hanging off your nose and chin, you might eventually find yourself standing on a folding chair with a noose around your neck. You get the feeling that when a turkey first saw a Pilgrim raising his blunderbuss, he leaned toward the muzzle, thinking, "Bless you kind sir, this goddamned snood was making me cross-eyed!" More than likely, the Pilgrim turned the blunderbuss on himself first, because when your one big feast of the year features turkey as its centerpiece, you're probably eager to shuffle off your own mortal coil. Regardless of how reasonable that scenario sounds, we can only assume that turkeys are suicidal. We can't be absolutely sure. After all, turkeys are rumored to be stupid, and ignorance is bliss. The Pilgrims might have been suicidal as well, but they were too busy fending off disease, pestilence, wild animals, and peace-loving American Indians to take reasonable stock of their situation. In fact, it is within the realm of possibility that any Pilgrim who survived more than six months of that brutish existence was pissing himself with glee ... if only because he had the option of choosing a better exit than having his head used as a chew toy by a mountain lion. This, in essence, is the philosophical foundation of the Thanksgiving - the part that works. Every once in a while it's good to take a quiet moment and reflect on how things could be much, much worse. It's easy enough, just let your imagination run wild. If your life actually got as bad as you can imagine it could be, you'd be absolutely giddy at the thought of eating dried fish, turkey, and yams with Squanto. However, in the real world it's hard to keep your eyes on the rhetorical punishment. Sometimes just sitting down with your relatives and hogging on some Butterball can seem like the seventh level of hell, when in reality it's not nearly as bad as say, being torn to pieces by bloodthirsty hyenas or, a little closer to home, being waterboarded at Gitmo. It's all a matter of contrast, really, and if you can bend your mind into a decent hypothetical perspective, you'll probably find that you're living fat and happy - though you might want to take care of that toenail fungus situation. Maybe you can drop by the drug store on your way back from the 19th annual ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot, which starts at Waterloo Park at 9:30am on Thanksgiving Day. Not only is the Turkey Trot a great way to feel better about the orgy of gluttony and sloth the modern Thanksgiving has become, it's also a great way to meet a lot of ostensibly healthy people and see what they look like when they're sweating. Most importantly, it's a relatively easy and fun way give back to the community, because the race proceeds go to Caritas of Austin, an organization that fights hunger, homelessness, and poverty in the Austin area.

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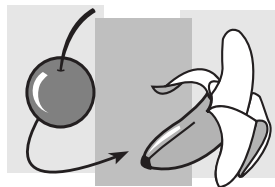
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HELLO FOR STARTERS

Truth: 9/100 percent of us are not Neat, intelligent, funny...Most of us are Sloppy, insecure, narcissistic. Open up and show all of the characters that are distinctively you. **Dextria**, 24, ☎, 📍, #131895

PEACE LOVING CUTIE

I like artistry and ingenuity, daytrips, extended trips, cooking, eating, prefer to be outside not in. Looking for someone healthy, kind and genuine who enjoys life, and simple pleasures shared. **marisol**, 50, 📍, #131892

SWEETGIRL

I enjoy theatre (live and indie), hiking, and picnics. I just love life and having fun, I am very independent, but I would like to spend time with someone special. **justme62**, 47, 📍, #131846

LOVE TO LAUGH!

Hi, I live east of Austin & am looking for cool people to hang out with! Thanks 4 checking me out & email me if you like what u see! **Spicy2nite**, 31, 📍, #131830

SILLY, FLIRTY, LOVEABLE

Silly woman that loves to spend time hanging out with the people that matters most. Very energetic but can be shy at first. Knows how to have a good time. **flirtylady04**, 20, 📍, #131820

EXTREMELY CLASSY BROAD

Relocating to Texas and trying to find out what's good. I like chocolate, sincerity and public radio, movies, music, and charming southern men. Looking forward to saying "y'all" ironically. **pomeller**, 23, 📍, #131818

JUST SMILE

This is the hard part...I'll keep it short and sweet, like me. I love music, reading, walking, spending time with my son, and meeting new people. **PhotograpHER84**, 25, ☎, 📍, #131707

THIS IS FUN

I've got a head on my shoulders and I can use it surprisingly well for my age. I love to laugh and I do it often. Life's a game. **itsruby**, 18, 📍, #131662

FRESH FROM MOUNTAINS

New to Austin and I'd love to meet someone to go explore with. Bad at small talk, attracted to the hilarious. Nietzsche. Bukowski. Jodorowsky. Pinot noir. Punk rock. Cheesecake. Anthropology. **Syrachelise**, 24, 📍, #131646

SMART & KIND

Being a good friend is the most important thing there is. Kindness lasts forever, Love the New Yorker. Love art shows, music shows, and to sit and talk outside. **drfrank**, 51, 📍, #131455

JOYFUL, CAREFREE

Okay, I'm gonna be real with you I'm just a girl that want's 2 meet a guy,that can treat me like a lady! U will Be a KING! **joiluv**, 29, 📍, #131425

CREATIVE STRONG SWEET

Creative type looking for a kind, giving man. I'm an anachronistic lady with Deep-South affinities. Self-aware and open, I'm eager to find a partner who's equally motivated and likes honesty. **Sister_Medium**, 37, 📍, #124277

SPICY, MUSIC LOVER..

myself very open-minded, but tend to not tolerate smoking, obesity or BO. For friends, I just moved to Austin. I am not picky, wanna have some fun on the weekends. **lilthing**, 32, 📍, #131344

WELL-ROUNDED SMARTPANTS

enough about me, how about you? **CaliKuhl**, 34, 📍, #131333



LATINLOVER

Latin lady looking for something real & genuine. someone who can stimulate & intrigue me. Seeking a gentleman with a big heart who knows how to treat a lady. **SexiMexi**, 32, 📍, #131544

FRIENDS ARE FAMILY

I meet nice folks all the time, hang out, listen to music and laugh. There's no desperation here. It's just that I want something deeper and more meaningful. **WalkinAustin**, 52, 📍, #123606

ADVENTEROUS CHALLENGE.

Music. Movies. Escape routes. Zeigenbock. Merlot. Mary. Poetry. Running for hours. Wading through the past and determining not to have regrets this...is me. **pretty_much_awesome**, 21, 📍, #131495

KIND, HONEST, DORKY

just a pretty awesome lady who needs a good man with a backbone...who happens to be hilarious and handsome. **darkcloud**, 34, 📍, #131484

TRAVELING AND SEEKING

Just seeking the man of my life. Just seeking the right guy. **dreaming76**, 33, 📍, #131407

CREATIVE, ADVENTUROUS, SWEET

Most of my spare time is spent seeing friends and family, training for the marathon, practicing yoga, hiking, and cooking. I love life and am excited to meet new people! **yoga1181**, 28, 📍, #131300

LAUGHS AT FUNERALS

I love music and lyrics, and I love writing essays. My ideal match would look like Bob Schneider but would also speak Spanish. Take me out for a beer! **BarenakedLady**, 29, 📍, #131283



WHO IS THIS

just a honest person looking for a good time, i love to cook, paint, read, and have the time to time drink. **crazy_sam**, 32, 📍, #131902

LOVEABLE YOUNG STALLION

I'm a 19 year young student, been in Austin 3 years and work full time. My mind-set is wiser and adventurous. Looking for a girl who could say the same. **khrisround2**, 19, 📍, #131901

TALKIN

Im a laid back guy. Just lookin to meet some chill people. **lemshotcha**, 26, 📍, #131768

PICK ME!

Me:work hard, play hard, good heart and great sense of humor. You: not afraid to ride on the back of my motorcycle and must look good doing so! **BackRoadJunkie**, 49, 📍, #131900

NEW TO TOWN

26, a lifelong musician, reader, and traveler. I'm always exploring new places and art. You should be open-minded, active and love live music. **NewToTown83**, 26, 📍, #131889

MUSICAL MAD HATTER

I'm a budding musician in this musical city looking for casual dates and playful mates. Allow my quirky and sometimes droll humor to make you glow as we tumble together. **Pokieh42**, 22, 📍, #131883

MY ONLINE AD

I support local businesses, especially those who know that there's always money in the banana stand. I like Jeff Tweedy, even on Prairie Home Companion. I like NBC Thursdays. **dloury**, 24, 📍, #131873

SENSITIVE, RESPONSIBLE, CREATIVE

I am a "great guy". I have been told that I have a "Peter Sellers factor" whatever that means ... maybe it's the glasses and the wacky sense of humor. **dharma dude**, 41, 📍, #131871

WE'RE COMPATIBLE IF...

Looking for someone to hang out with and possibly more. Someone who likes to dine out, see good movies and theater shows, or concerts. **utopia_guy**, 53, 📍, #131866

INTELLIGENT ENIGMATIC ROMANTIC

I'm a poet, musician, friend, father, dreamer, philosopher, romantic, etc. I'm insane about music. I'm a catch and I'll know it if you are too. **kidmiracle**, 26, 📍, #131834

PICNIC BASKET BOOB00

Enjoy short rides on the space shuttle and journeys to the center of the earth? Abe Lincoln was riding bicycles with a poodle in my head during the Thursday social. **Dutch-Boy**, 30, 📍, #131805

YOUNG STUD

im a young stud looking for a nice charming lady who looking to have sexy fun time to time every week im athletic and funny i love partying. **Kngbrucelee**, 21, 📍, #131804

ADVENTUROUS, WITTY, INOVATIVE, RESOURCEFUL, DREAMER

looking for love, & best friend to share fears, movies, Sunny days on lake travis, long walks with no real destination. picture gets mine. spark of attraction is visual. Not my fault, evolutions. **luv2fly**, 44, 📍, #131800

MUST LOVE GARLIC

I am a guitarist/music lover new to Austin. Looking to make some new friends, hopefully a great date. **jdangelo**, 32, 📍, #131803

ITILII!

just tryin to fully enjoy everyday in this hectic world of ours. look to take advantage of all the great offerings of our area and experience real people. **brulescus**, 49, 📍, #119320

OFF THE CHAIN

I'm a happy go lucky guy, just moved back to Austin; man I love it here, I am here to keep austin weird! Gimmie a holler! **honda69**, 45, 📍, #131786

OPEN-MINDED, ADVENTUROUS, EASY-GOING

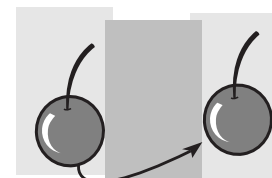
always looking for something fun and always staying "on the bright side of life". go big or go home and no one wants to just go home. **proxemics02**, 24, 📍, #131762

PRESENT FOR LIFE

I'm pretty fun, and funny. Kind, laid back, bright, open-minded. Athletic, coordinated and rhythmic. Pretty sweet, in general. I think anger is largely unnecessary. I truly enjoy the simple things. **HereNowAreYou**, 41, 📍, #131759

ARTSYCOMICS

Do you like reading, watching movies, comedy, and going to bars? Me too, lets hang out then and enjoy those things together. **art2adidas**, 28, 📍, #131754



LOOK BETTER ON

im Ace. moved to austin 2 weeks ago. love to laugh. very single. college student. love coffee. im very blunt, not rude. love mexican food. looove walks. really laid back. **AceOf-Spades**, 19, 📍, #131753

ADVENTURE BECKONS

fun, genuinely funny, three-year texan seeks someone to enjoy life with. spiritual is a plus. **pleasantly-human**, 29, 📍, #131741

NEW TO TOWN

Just moved to Austin from Florida. I also just graduated nursing school. For fun I like working out when I can, watching or playing sports, movies, chilling, food, downtown. **Swoosh12101**, 23, 📍, #131567

SCIENCE/MUSIC NERD

I just moved here and I'm many hours away from everyone I know and love. I love learning, reading, science, playing music, making jewelry, nature, my frogs, cooking, and unplanned adventures. **velvet-goldmine**, 23, ☎, 📍, #131887

QUEEN SEEKS COURT

Let's go skinny dipping at night under the stars and drink wine by the pale of the moon. Make me laugh, make me happy - I'll reciprocate! **brownsugarjones**, 44, 📍, #120282

NEW TO AUSTIN

Generally a really positive person, I live life to the fullest and without regrets because my mistakes have proven to be my best teachers. **juicebysarah**, 22, 📍, #131478

DINO-S-RAWR

This lovely lady is into designer jeans and thrift store T-shirts. Pizza and beer, lots of yoga and a passion for green living. Ridiculously grown-up, but total Peter Pan syndrome. **Pedalestrian**, 25, 📍, #131366

TEXAS ADVENTURE SEEKER

I am upbeat, fun, cute, and adventurous. I'm looking for a woman who is successful and loves to travel. We both enjoy the finer things in life, particularly fine dining. **chulaleo**, 39, 📍, #131345

1-N-A-MILLION HOPELESS ROMANTIC!

Love to love. I am gentle but don't mind getting dirty. Looking for some1 I can spend time w/h have a lil fun. Some1 who is going to love me. **DulceDucati13**, 32, 📍, #130790



NICE AND SIMPLE

Laid back guy seeks low drama situation with another guy. Enjoy hanging out with friends, margaritas, red wine, dining out. Road bike riding, 24Hour Fitness. Dog lover. Disease/smoke free here. **jodetx**, 50, 📍, #131890

OPERA OR PUNK

Wait a minute... He likes Opera and punk? He likes Grindhouse and Love, Actually? He likes Chez Nous and The Salt Lick? Is fun and capable of making a committment? **pparker**, 53, 📍, #131728



Flavor of the Week

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A dear friend once told me that she was afraid I was going to smile too big or laugh too hard and explode into confetti and skittles.

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LOOKING FOR LOVE

Originally from Boston. I enjoy going back east to visit family. I'm looking for someone with the same interests, cooking, taking walks, talking about the important things in life. **It-TakesTwo**, 46, #131616

HIPSTER GAYSIAN WANTED

Are you: awesome? asian? hipster? hilarious? social and homebody? 21-30ish Do you: like electro and indie? dance? drive? want to find love? I'm: skinny, white, 6'01", dark hair musician, hairdresser. **artist4asian**, 22, #131400

ROMANCE 2 WILD

I love a man that thinks about me first thing in the am and the last thing at nite. hand holding and cuddling is a must, as is kissing. **man2man**, 52, #131299

NEW TO AUSTIN

Very blessed, spiritually-changed. 51 GPM ISO honest, outgoing, totally real, self-confident and self-loving gay man who wants to work hard on a friendship and relationship together. **newtoaustinguy**, 51, #131167

HUGS & KISSES

Austin man desires friend & lover. 45/ GWM/6'2"/200. Love to laugh, share and explore. You be smart, healthy and open to possibilities. **bluehead-lights**, 45, #131094

ECLECTIC CURIOUS VERSATILE

I am retired disabled veteran. I live alone masculine in demeanor publicly. Overeducated : i asked for literature, poetry, love foreign cultures and languages, horticulture, gourmet cooking, excellent pool player, Seeking a man. **sophisticant**, 65, #130924

TEXAS LEOIAN

Life is short. I'm in school getting my Nursing license. I want to pay back to my world before my time runs out here on this precious earth. **LMenges**, 45, #122677

GENUINE MAN WANTED

I am a very outgoing, proud native Texan, enjoy good conversation, anything outdoors-hiking, camping, enjoy the arts, but am masculine, still enjoy wrestling, and am an animal lover. **TexBoy**, 37, #125013



SENSATIONAL, THEATRICAL, PRESENTABLE,

I love the theatre, I like moves, I am a great fan of Video Games. I like musicals. I make re-make music videos for fun and write scripts for fun. **alexcrumb**, 24, #131826

A LOST FOREIGNER

Im a mellow guy that is easy to get along with.Im new to Austin and wouldnt mind having a female companion to show me what this city has to offer. **Bayborn**, 21, #131782

PASSIONATE, ARTISTIC, OUTGOING

I am a major of dance and Spanish. My passions include dance, writing, & music. I enjoy riding my bike, running/jogging, and swimming. I have a crazy sense of humor. **dancer28**, 28, #131739

BAM DRUMMER BOY

SSHHHH, lets pretend we met at the Library, I liked your t shirt of little kittens in a basket, you liked my curly hair, and red Bugle Boy sweat pants. **Rumplestiltsken**, 24, #131743

LOOKING FORWARD TO....

Grad student looking to experience the art, live music, and culture of the Austin area. Interested in finding people who enjoy spontaneity, exploring, simplicity and just "being". **SG728**, 25, #131303



HEY OMA T, you can, you can do it very well...you got a great one I can tell..shake, shake, shake..quake, quake, quake that booty, that mighty fine booty! Happy Holidays I'll be there.so oh my my oh hell yes, honey put on that party dress.yum-yum!

a shot in the dark

MADAM MAM'S

Friday night, November 20, Madam Mam's on Anderson Lane. You were with another woman. Our eyes met at least 3 times.How about a more personal meeting? Let's get together. **When: Friday, November 20. Where: Madam Mam's. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904506

METAPHYSICAL FAIR-RADISSON

You were wearing jeans and a green long-sleeved shirt. You kept smiling at me, it was endearing. I was the blonde, wearing the jeans and black tunic making jewelry. **When: Saturday, November 21. Where: Metaphysical Fair at the Radisson. You: Man. Me: Woman.** #904505

JUST GOT BEATUP

you bummed a smoke and we had some small talk should have got your number as we where on the same but across austin **When: Tuesday, November 17. Where: at the #3 stop at the south austin acc. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904503

JULIE'S ROCKIN TOMATO

saw you thursday night after kicked that guy in the nuts when you left said shoulda kissed me...well give you a chance t'see if you meant it over lunch jonah **When: Thursday, November 19. Where: at the night owl bus stop @ 6th n congress. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904502

NEW MOON NINJA

Gorgeous in white track jacket in line for New Moon. Me, skinny kid shaved head. You said I should call you before you disappeared into your theater. Make that possible? **When: Thursday, November 19. Where: Regal Gateway 16 Theater. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904501

JESSICA FROM FADO

We talked on the patio at Fado. Sorry my friend tried to kill your roommate with a chair, but he really was being an ass. Meet for a drink? -Brandon **When: Wednesday, November 18. Where: Fado. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904500

GET UP KIDS

You tall thin cutie (guy) dances the robot w/ a bearded friend at Get Up Kids Show. Me short girl red sweater, burgundy hair next to you at the bar. **When: Wednesday, November 18. Where: Emo's Get Up Kids Show. You: Man. Me: Woman.** #904499

SEXY SEAN DYLAN
We've never actually met, I see you all the time and too flustered to talk to you! You dressed up at the Shagrila anniversary last night and i almost fainted. **When: Tuesday, November 17. Where: Shangrila. You: Man. Me: Woman.** #904498

MASTADON. FRIDAY 13.

You: TazerAss. New Braunfels sexy booty girl with tazer ass video. Still hurt? Kiss and make it better! **When: Friday, November 13. Where: Austin Music Hall. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904492

CESAR CHAVEZ ADONIS
Me: passenger in older light blue Honda Civic staring hard enough to force a response. Your response-A SMILE TO MELT A SOUL. I need a repeat, closer. **When: Friday, November 13. Where: 3:00pm CesChav walking westward between Trinity and Brazos. You: Man. Me: Man.** #904491



MET HEB FARWEST

You- tall, dark and handsome. Me- hot blonde.We locked eyes in the parking at HEB. You should have asked for my number! **When: Sunday, November 22. Where: HEB Farwest. You: Man. Me: Woman.** #904504

"I DO"

At a networking event you asked if I sell homes, right as I asked if your home needs to be sold. We Both Said... "I Do." Go over vows again? **When: Friday, November 13. Where: Austin Networking Event. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904496

SEEKING NATURE LOVER

You: Civic minded, Me: Underloved park, 100 years old but with lots of life still left in me. Looking to put some purr back in my Pergola. **When: Thursday, June 18. Where: 9th & Guadalupe. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904494

SYLVIA@ STEINER STEAK

You were with a guy & another couple on Friday night. We made eye contact while y'all were having dinner. As y'all were leaving we chatted briefly and held hands. **When: Friday, November 13. Where: Steiner Steak House. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904493

KIRBYLN ISNT THSAME

we shared french toast. were supposed to share more but life separated us b4 we got the chance. Lets get together: french art, french films, french kisses... **When: Wednesday, January 30, 2008. Where: kirby lane. You: Man. Me: Woman.** #904490

YOU: WALKING READER

always on campus & Speedway reading/walking. you have curly hair & never trip. tried to talk to you once. it went badly. wish i knew you or what you're reading. **When: Monday, November 9. Where: campus, speedway. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904489

N.LAMAR DRIVERS LICENSE

First saw you in line, then a smile when you were getting your picture. I wish I had waited for you. Its been a while but are you there? **When: Wednesday, October 21. Where: N. Lamar Drivers License Office. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904488

TITAYA'S LUNCH FRIDAY

We sat while waiting for take out food. I mentioned that I wanted to dine in, all the tables were full. Let's dine in together? **When: Sunday, November 1. Where: Titaya's Thai Restaurant. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904482

FLYING SAUCER BUDDY

my parents were in from up north and you joined our team... i should have asked for your number. care to meet up next week for some more trivia? **When: Tuesday, November 10. Where: Flying Saucer - Trivia night. You: Man. Me: Woman.** #904487

BOULDIN PHOTO SHOOT

You were wearing pink moccasin boots and black frame glasses. I was the guy sitting across from you with long curly hair... Thai Takeoffs sometime? **When: Sunday, November 1. Where: Bouldin Creek. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904486

#3 GREEN DRESS

you cute, green shirt, green dress and beautiful big eye's on the #3 bus going south around noon on tuesday. me, white, tall, blue eye's, shaved redhead, tattoo's on arm's and neck. DID YOU SMILE AT ME? ttyl. **When: Tuesday, November 10. Where: #3 bus southbound. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904484

DUDE WITH GLOWSTICK

11/07/09 You: in the Zepplin t-shirt @ the Chuggin Monkey...gave me your glow stick Me: with the purple lei. Wanna meet up for drinks and get to know each other? **When: Saturday, November 7. Where: The Chuggin Monkey. You: Man. Me: Woman.** #904483

DEADMAU5 AT STUBB'S

You were awesome and let me stand in front of you for a better view. Eventually instead of dancing next to each other we ended up dancing together... You're gorgeous. **When: Saturday, November 7. Where: Deadmau5. You: Man. Me: Woman.** #904480

MEDICAL SHOOL GIRL

You have buzzed hair. I couldn't let you in the pub. I was gonna ask you out, but was busy when you're ride came and you were on the phone. **When: Saturday, November 7. Where: draught house pub. You: Woman. Me: Man.** #904479

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsny for Nov. 27-Dec. 3

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The surest way to beat the system, my dear, is to elude it and erect your own system. The strategy most likely to leave your competitors babbling in the mirror, sweetheart, is to go completely over their heads. That doesn't mean, darling, that you should be a remote and grandiose narcissist who listens to no one but yourself. Smile sweetly as you describe why your way is the best way, you gorgeous genius. Enlist worthy collaborators through the irresistible force of your guileless charisma.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "A neurosis is a secret that you don't know you are keeping," wrote theatre critic Kenneth Tynan. Your assignment is to uncover one of those secrets in yourself. It may not result in an instantaneous cure of your minor personality glitch, but it will be a potent first step that will set in motion a series of healing events. Be brave, Capricorn. I guarantee that any ugliness you might find lodged deep inside you will be entangled with surprising beauty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Seventy percent of the world's fresh water is locked away in Antarctica's ice, which is 7,000 feet thick. Let's hope it remains that way for the foreseeable future. If global warming melted that giant slab even a little, sea levels all over the planet would rise and coastal lands would be inundated. As for your frozen areas, however: I'd really like to see at least 30% of them thaw. Would you consider doing whatever it takes to release a miniflood of summery feelings?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): While walking in an unfamiliar neighborhood, I saw a huge red wooden chair on someone's front lawn. It was big enough for a 20-foot-tall giant. An equally oversized martini glass was perched on the arm of the chair. Nearby was a sign that read, "I have flying monkeys at my command, and I'm not afraid to use them." I assumed this scene was the handiwork of an adorable crazy person who's an admirer of *The Wizard of Oz* mythology. I also flashed on how I could totally see you sitting in that chair. Metaphorically speaking, you too have flying monkeys at your command. I just hope you use them to accomplish good deeds, not evil ones.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): One of the greatest superpowers a human being can have is the ability to change herself in accordance with her intentions. Let's say you're tired of feeling shame about something there's no good reason to feel shame about, and you decide to do whatever it takes to dissolve that shame, and you succeed in doing it. Or let's say you no longer want to attract bad listeners and flaky collaborators into your life, and you resolve to transform that pattern, and you ultimately achieve your goal. These are acts of high magic as amazingly wizardly as anything a shaman does. It so happens, Aries, that this superpower is especially accessible to you right now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your story is taking a hotter and wetter and more cosmically comical turn. The splendor and the rot are all mixed up. The line between your strengths and liabilities is hair thin. But have no fear. One of your dormant talents will activate in the nick of time. Your wild guesses will shed bright light whenever the darkness creeps in. And you'll have even more emotional intelligence than usual. p.s. If your psyche tingles like a funny bone that has been tapped, it means that unanticipated help or useful information will arrive within 12 hours.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "The more you do what you want," says Santa Fe artist Erika Wanenmacher, "the more magic happens." And what she wants, in part, is to be surprised by how life's random events ask to be included in her creative process. During her long walks along the irrigation ditch near her home, for example, odds and ends on the ground call to her, suggesting that she use them in her art pieces - heart-shaped rocks, miniature liquor bottles, bent spoons, parts of toys. One of her gallery pieces, *Spell Wall*, consists of amulets made from this found stuff. "I'll make whatever I want," Erika says. "Out of whatever I want. About whatever I want." She's your role model, Gemini. Borrow from her perspective. Go in quest of unexpected clues that make you feel loose and free and fertile.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Needing a creative disruption in my routine, I hiked into a forest I'd never visited. The late afternoon light was wan, and the wind was chilly. In places, the trail narrowed to a scruffy rut barely big enough for me to walk on, leading me to wonder if I was reading my map wrong. Three times this happened, but always the wider path resumed. Were there bobcats here? When I spied a flash of fur in the distance, I wished I'd researched that subject before I'd come. Still I pressed on. Then I came upon a single segment of a wooden fence, inexplicable in this remote area. One end of its upper slat had come loose and fallen. Moved by a whimsical urge to insert order into the midst of my disorientation, I fixed the slat. My mood brightened, my anxiety dissipated, and the rest of my hike was filled with small epiphanies. Everything I just described, my fellow Cancerian, is an apt metaphor for your week ahead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I believe that in the coming weeks you'll enjoy experiences that have an emotional resemblance to those referred to in this passage by French novelist Gustave Flaubert: "I want to cover you with love, with caresses, with ecstasy. I want to gorge you with all the joys of the flesh. ... I want you to be astonished by me, to confess to yourself that you had never even dreamed of such transports. ... When you are old, I want you to recall those few hours. I want your dry bones to quiver with joy when you think of them." Please note, Leo, that I'm not necessarily saying the pleasures you gather in will stem from an engagement with an actual lover; they might, but your delight may also have a more mysterious origin.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's not just our era that has a tormented relationship with time. Many cultures have been frustrated by its tyranny. During France's July revolution in 1830, for instance, rebels shot guns at public clocks. While I think that's too extreme for you, I do recommend that you perform a ritual to empower yourself as you wrestle with the passage of the hours and days and weeks. How about smashing a cheap alarm clock with a hammer? Or spending an entire day without ever referring to a timepiece? Or taking 10 deep breaths as you imagine you're inhaling eternity and exhaling the grinding tick-tock? It's a perfect moment to claim more freedom from temporality.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I agree with football coach Lou Holtz, who said, "The problem with having a sense of humor is often that people you use it on aren't in a very good mood." It's possible to work around this difficulty, however. What you have to do, before you unleash your levity, is conjure up empathy for the sorpous in question. You should also make sure that your intention is not to mock or poke at the person, but instead offer a potential escape from his or her locked energy. By my calculations, you could be an expert at this kind of psychic judo right now. For best results, practice on yourself. Whenever you're headed toward a negative thought or emotion, nudge yourself away with a jest or wisecrack.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do you know what you're really worth? Not as measured by your bank account and luxurious possessions. Not as reflected by your boss' or parents' or enemies' images of you. Not as distorted by what you wish you were worth or fear you're not worth. I'm talking about taking an illusion-free inventory of the skills you have that are fulfilling to you and useful to others. I'm talking about your wisdom more than your knowledge, your self-love more than your popularity, your ability to be good more than to look good.

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